Hafa Adai!

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Switched at death

Jorge Gino Bernados in his Facebook account photo.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mislabeled body bag leads to unwanted cremation

An alleged mix-up in body bag labels at the Commonwealth Health Center led to the unwanted cremation of a body that was supposed to be repatriated whole to the Philippines, as requested by the family of the person who passed away.

The mistake was only discovered during the public viewing, when co-employees and friends of Jorge Gino Bernados saw that the body that they had offered prayers for nine days at San Jose Church actually belonged to another man.

Bernados' body, according

See SWITCHED on Page 4

'That's not him'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Co-employees and friends of Jorge Gino Bernados, a maintenance worker at Saipan World Resort who died three weeks ago, were stunned to see during a public viewing at San Jose Church that the body in the casket was that of a different man.

They later learned that Bernados' body had already been cremated and sent to Hawaii.

When Fr. Charlie Borja finished the Mass for 55-year-old Bernados on the ninth day of rosary last March 14, he gave instructions to open the closed casket for viewing.

Reymundo dela Cruz,

See THAT'S on Page 4

Prosecutorial misconduct finding vs Weintraub vacated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Weintraub

The CNMI Supreme Court has vacated the Superior Court's finding that then-assistant attorney general Elizabeth "Betsy" Weintraub committed prosecutorial misconduct during a jury trial.

The high court justices determined that Weintraub's conduct in the trial of David James Aguon was not as deliberate and reckless as amounting to bad faith.

Rather, the justices said, the finding of prosecutorial misconduct was based on Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's erroneous assessment of her conduct

See WEINTRAUB on Page 4

AMP quarters for the CNMI are released

Now available from the U.S. Mint are rolls and bags of quarters honoring the American Memorial Park in the U.S. territory of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Products options include 100-coin bags, 40-coin rolls, 2-roll sets and 3-roll sets. All contain circulation quality quarters taken directly from the production floors of the U.S. Mint's facilities in Philadelphia, Denver or San Francisco.

American Memorial Park is located on the

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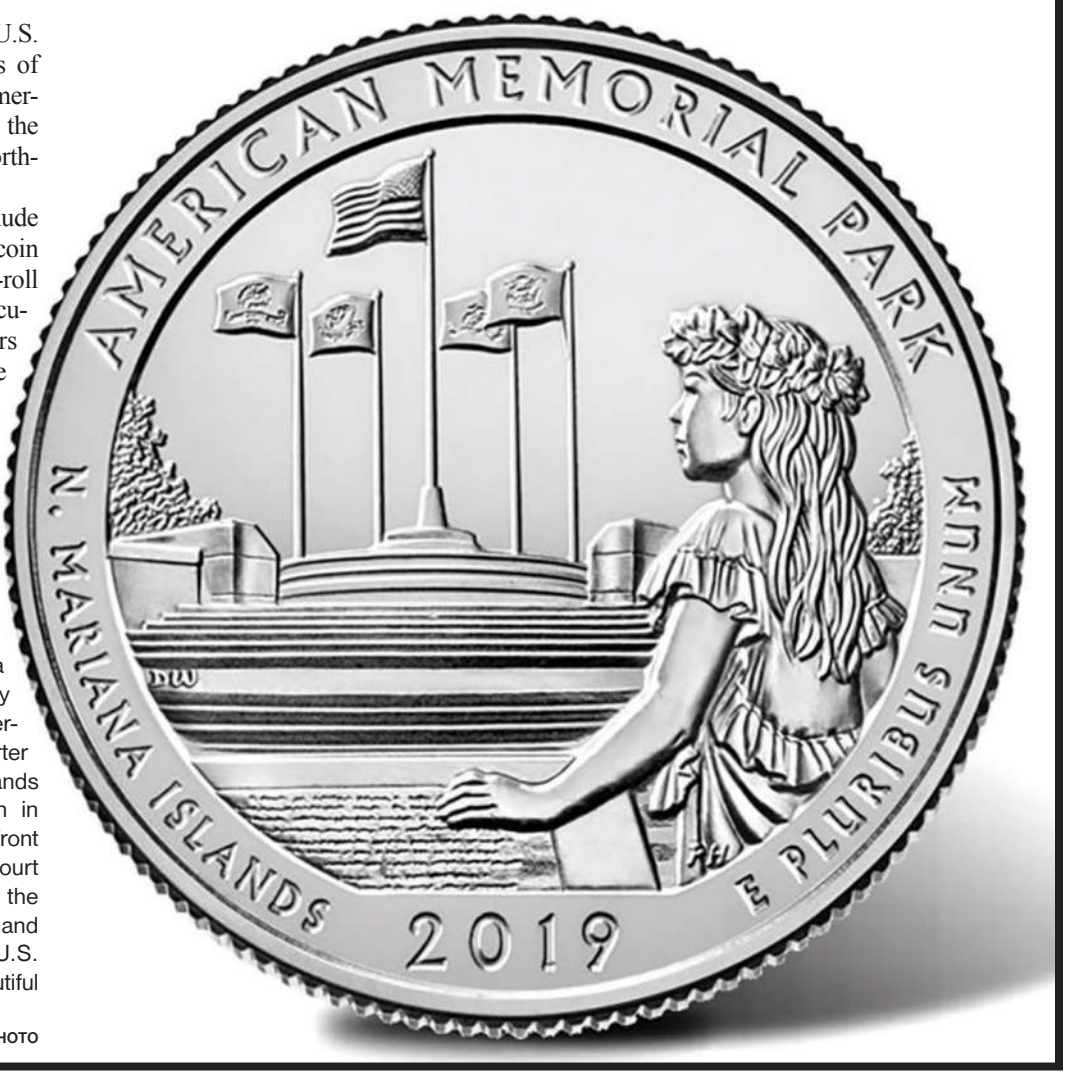

Designed by Donna Weaver and sculpted by Phebe Hemphill, the American Memorial Park quarter for Northern Mariana Islands depicts a young woman in traditional attire at the front of the Flag Circle and Court of Honor. The quarter is the second release this year and the forty-seventh in the U.S. Mint's America the Beautiful Quarter Program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSIDE

NATION

Four people were found dead Monday in what police called a "multiple homicide" at a North Dakota property-management business.

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FOCUS

The murder of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's estranged half-brother at an airport in Malaysia was brazen, intricately orchestrated and, thanks to scores of security cameras, witnessed by millions around the world.

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LIFE & STYLE

Fire-breathing dragons held court over the world-famous fountains at the Bellagio casino-resort Sunday, as familiar elements from the TV phenomenon "Game of Thrones" were projected on the rising water.

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Local

CPA has $37M projects for Rota airport

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Christopher S. Tenorio, second row middle, joins CPA officials and staff during their celebration of Women's Month yesterday.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is planning to construct an international terminal on Rota, which is part of CPA's ongoing eight projects worth a total of $37 million for the island's Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

According to CPA's Strategic Planning for CNMI Air and Seaports, the $15-million international terminal needs to accommodate anticipated direct flights to Rota and will relieve the issues of federal mandates restricting international and domestic travelers from comingling.

The new terminal, CPA said, will include larger holding rooms, airline check in and office space, federal screening checkpoints, installation of electronic trace detection system for checked baggage, concession space, loading bridges, and airport offices.

CPA claimed it has been receiving inquiries of direct flights to Rota from Asia.

"Airlines want to come to Rota but due to the limited space available at the arrival and departure areas, it is difficult to accommodate a large number of passengers," CPA said.

CPA said the international terminal project's duration is five years and its funding source is pending.

The seven other CPA projects are the $4-million perimeter fence replacement, the $5-million fuel storage facility, the $1.5-million parking lot expansion, the $3-million roof canopy replacement, the $2-million existing apron treatment, the $5-million runway extension, and the $1.5-million drainage improvements.

On the perimeter fence project, CPA said the design inclusive of an access road was completed in 2018 but due to the high costs of bids, was deferred to 2019.

Last August, Typhoon Mangkhut destroyed approximately 80 percent of the fence line.

In order to be complaint with Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration regulations, CPA said the entire perimeter fence at the airport needs to be replaced.

The estimated project duration is five years. FAA and CPA are the funding source.

On fuel storage, CPA said a facility is necessary if CPA plans to have direct flights to the island.

CPA currently reportedly has been receiving a lot of inquiries about airlines bringing in passengers from Asian countries, but due to the lack of the facility and fuel, the airlines do not come to Rota.

» **Plans to build international terminal**

Several companies have expressed their interest in chartering direct flights to the island.

CPA said the construction and installation of a fuel storage facility would open up Rota's doors for direct flights which would certainly help stimulate its economy.

The duration of the project is two years and its source is pending.

Pertaining to the parking lot expansion, CPA said upon completion of the international terminal project, the parking lot would need to be expanded as they expect additional vehicles dropping off and picking up customers.

The project duration is two years and the funding source is pending.

With respect to roof canopy replacement project, CPA said they have been experiencing leakages during heavy rain due to the deterioration of the roof canopy.

During heavy rain, over spray would enter the public/passenger waiting area, making it wet and causing a hazardous slippery condition.

The project duration is one year and CPA is the funding source.

On the existing apron treatment project, CPA said the surface of the apron has been deteriorated over time due to extreme weather conditions and airline traffic flow.

CPA determined it is imperative to resurface the apron to avoid any unforeseen incidents such as flat tires, airlines following wrong markings and other things.

The project duration is two years with FAA and CPA as the funding source.

With respect to runway extension, CPA plans to extend the existing runway from 7,000 feet to 8,600 feet to accommodate large, wide-bodied aircraft in anticipation of international flights.

The 1,600-foot extension would allow Boeing 747 or larger aircraft to make a safe landing.

The project duration is three years and funding source is pending.

On airport drainage, CPA said the drainage lines at the airport need to be replaced as they have been experiencing clogging in various locations.

CPA recognized it is a health hazard when the drainage is clogged as it leaks from the restaurant to the former Cape Air office.

The duration of the project is one year, with CPA as the funding source.

The eight projects worth $37 million for the Rota airport were among the many multi-million projects outlined in CPA's Strategic Planning report issued Monday.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said the Strategic Planning outlines what the staff and management have identified as priorities that CPA will pursue over the next four years.

High school students encouraged to join WGA art contest

All CNMI high school students are being encouraged to participate in this year's Western Governors' Association High School Art Competition.

The theme of this year's WGA High School Art Competition is "Celebrate the West."

Artwork should convey how the student is inspired by their state or territory.

The contest is open to all high school students from one of the member states of the Western Governors' Association: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Eligible contestants must be in grades 9 to 12, enrolled in a public, private, charter or alternative school, or home schooled. Winning artists will receive cash prizes. Winning artwork will also be featured on the WGA website and displayed at an upcoming WGA meeting.

The deadline to enter the competition is April 28, 2019. Students can submit a digital copy of their artwork via email to WGAart@westgov.org.

Entries must be in in one of the following formats: PNG, JPG, PDF, BMP, TIF.

Students can also mail a photograph of their artwork to Western Governors' Association, 2019 Art Competition, 1600 Broadway, Suite 1700, Denver Colorado 80202.

For more information and contest rules, visit http://westgov.org/celebrate-the-west. ***(PR)***

Creative ways to generate revenue sought

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) said getting creative in generating revenues for the CNMI government were among the topics that they discussed when they met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Monday. The administration is currently finishing up the government's budget proposal that they plan to submit to the Legislature within the week.

The administration, based on the report given by acting Finance secretary David Atalig, is looking at a projected decrease of $12,048,321 in revenue collections for the first quarter of the current fiscal year. Super Typhoon Yutu hitting the islands of Saipan and Tinian last October is a major reason of the revenue shortfall as economic activity was stagnant for a few months.

"[The budget] is pretty much the gist of the meeting. To address those revenue-generating legislation. To take care of the issues on Medicaid, the hospital, and the massive damage of the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College from the typhoons. Currently, that's where we are right now," Attao told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We talked about the budget and their submission and the other issues that we're facing. Like, how are we going to get creative in generating revenues. So, we could take care of the pressing needs, the heavy damages incurred during Yutu on Saipan and Tinian, and also taking into consideration what Mangkhut did to Rota."

Attao said they need to figure out other revenue sources that would address the issues in the CNMI, like Medicaid, in order to spread out the budgetary allocations. The CNMI Medicaid Office, in a letter by Torres to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), has spent the $270,000 funds provided by the expanded Affordable Care Act or Obamacare.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) added they also discussed several solutions that could generate additional revenues like having a fuel tax or pass the amendment bill of Public Law 20-66 or the Taulamwarr Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018.

"There were several solutions discussed on ways to raise money, especially for our share on Medicaid and uncompensated care. I don't know where the fuel tax is going or if they want to include another funding language," Blanco told *Saipan Tribune*.

"Another one is the Cannabis [amendment] bill to move along, because we're going to miss the 180 days as stated in the statute. We first need to have a Commission and after 180 days, we need to have the regulations. The problem is, we don't have yet a full working Commission that needs to be funded."

Nadine Deleon Guerrero and Matt Deleon Guerrero (Saipan), Valentino Taisacan Jr. (Northern Islands), Lawrence Duponcheel (Tinian), and Thomas Songsong (Rota)

See CREATIVE on Next Page

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On approved credit. Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2500. While current supplies last. 2019 CX-5 Sport total price is $23,995. Financed at 4.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $361.37 or $166 per paycheck based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $21,682.20.

WEINTRAUB

From Page 1

and constitutes clear error.

"As such, we find the court abused its discretion," said the high court's ruling penned by Associate Justice Perry B. Inos and concurred by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justice John A. Manglona.

Weintraub prosecuted the case against Aguon on charges that he assaulted Navy veteran Christopher Broome inside the White and Black Bar in Garapan in March 2016.

Camacho, who presided over the trial, found that Weintraub had committed prosecutorial misconduct by deliberately disobeying the court's suppression order.

Camacho specifically found that, by asking police detective Flora Aguon about the weight of the attacker listed in her report, then asking the detective to estimate the defendant's weight, and then asking that the record reflect that the individual pointed out was the defendant, that Weintraub had circumvented the court's suppression order to have the detective identify the defendant as the attacker.

In the middle of the jury trial in March 2017, Weintraub moved to dismiss the case against David Aguon. She said dismissal is for the best interest of justice after they discovered some new information.

Camacho granted the motion to dismiss.

Weintraub then, through a private counsel, appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court to seek reversal of the prosecutorial misconduct determination.

Atty. Joseph E. Horey argued for Weintraub during the appellate hearing.

Weintraub argued that she did not violate the suppression order when she inquired into defendant's height and weight.

She asserted that the court did not demonstrate any intention to suppress inferences that defendant "had been—or might have been—the assailant."

Weintraub further argued that the record is clear the court did not order the suppression of inferences until after detective Aguon completed her testimony.

In vacating Camacho's finding of prosecutorial misconduct, the justices said they did not find that Weintraub willfully disobeyed the suppression order.

The justices said over the prosecutor's objection, detective Aguon was expressly permitted to testify as to the assailant's "height, weight, and all those other things."

The justices said Camacho granted the defense leeway to question and impeach detective Aguon's credibility based on the assailant's characteristics.

Likewise, the justices said, Weintraub used that same flexibility to rehabilitate the same witness based on those characteristics.

"When Weintraub continued inquiring into the assailant's height and weight—which had been initiated by the defense—she was doing so within the permissible scope of examination," the justices pointed out.

The justices said they do not perceive Weintraub as having performed an impropriety and engaged in appropriate witness examination.

"We cannot say that merely completing the record, especially sometime after the alleged misconduct occurred, reflects bad faith tantamount to prosecutorial misconduct," the justices said.

Last January, the CNMI Supreme Court determined that Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio abused her discretion in imposing a monetary sanction in the amount of $500 on Weintraub, who served as a prosecutor in a sexual abuse of a minor case against a retired Army reservist.

Weintraub now resides in the U.S. mainland.

SWITCHED

From Page 1

to family members and coworkers, was initially to be repatriated to the Philippines at the request of his family so they could hold a funeral and see their loved one for the last time.

Unfortunately, because of a mislabeling issue, Bernados' body was cremated and his ashes were sent off to a different family in Hawaii and another unnamed dead person was in Bernados' coffin during an arranged viewing at the San Jose Chapel on March 21.

CHC morgue staff allegedly placed Bernados' remains in a body bag that was labeled with another person's name—a decedent that had been confirmed for cremation. CHC released the body bag to the Borja Funeral Homes a week before Bernados' body was scheduled to be released.

Compounding the initial mistake, Saipan World Resort allegedly identified the wrong body—the body initially meant for cremation—and confirmed that it was Bernados' and that body was released to the funeral home and was prepared for viewing.

Bernardos was a Saipan World Resort maintenance employee who died in his room over three weeks ago.

When the switch was discovered, it was too late because Bernados' remains had already been cremated a week before and his urn was sent off to the wrong family.

Saipan World Resort's Human Resources refused to comment on the issue.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which operates CHC, released an official statement, saying they are currently looking into the situation.

"This was an unfortunate incident. The CHCC is currently conducting an investigation into the matter, including but not limited to chain of custody issues and the misidentification of the deceased by a third party. The CHCC extends our deepest sympathies to the families affected," the statement said.

In an interview with Borja Funeral Homes owner Frances Borja, she said two things happened that led to the cremation of the wrong body. One was mislabeling by CHC and, second, was the misidentification by Bernados' employer.

"A lot of things happened. The employer also did not identify the remains correctly. It's incredible but it happened. Before he was released from CHC, an employer representative identified the body as Jorge," she said.

According to Borja, a Saipan World Resort representative personally identified the wrong body and confirmed it was their employee, Bernados, before CHC released the body to them at the funeral home.

"They confirmed it was him [Bernados] and everything was settled and the viewing for [Bernados] was scheduled. It was during the viewing that some people noticed that it was not [Bernados]. My staff retrieved the remains after the service and we proceeded to check other markings on the person and then we found that the markings were not there, so immediately the body was brought back to the hospital and we made the hospital aware that they released the wrong body," she said.

When the switch was discovered, it was then too late, Borja said, because Bernados' remains had already been cremated and sent off.

"The cremated remains were sent out on March 15. We didn't find out until March 21 that it was Jorge Bernados' body that was cremated. …Before the viewing, Bernados was already cremated but at the time, we did not know it was him but, like I said…I don't know who from [Saipan] World Resort did the identification but they did go up there and identified the body and confirmed it was Jorge," Borja said.

Fortunately, Bernados' remains were retrieved from Hawaii and will be personally carried to Manila by his brother today.

Borja added that the hospital may have made the mistake because the body was already decomposing.

"The remains were in a body bag and already in the stage of decomposition so maybe [that's why] the mistake was made. I don't know, but our policy is for the next of kin to identify the body before cremation and apparently that identification was made and the cremation was authorized," she said.

The body that was mistakenly released and identified as Bernados has also been cremated and sent off to the right family.

AMP

From Page 1

island of Saipan of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The park was established on Aug. 18, 1978, and includes 133 acres honoring the American and Marianas people who gave their lives during the Marianas campaign of World War II. At the memorial, the American flag is displayed and centered around Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Coast Guard flags. The memorial includes 26 granite panels inscribed with the names of the 5,204 service members who died during the invasion of Saipan.

Quarter design

The reverse of each coin shows a young Chamorro woman in traditional dress at the front of the Flag Circle and Court of Honor. Her hand rests on the plaque with text honoring the sacrifice of those who died. Inscriptions include "AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK," "N. MARIANA ISLANDS," "2019," and "E PLURIBUS UNUM."

This design was created by U.S. Mint artist Donna Weaver. Sculpting was completed by U.S. Mint sculptor-engraver Phebe Hemphill.

John Flanagan's portrait of the first President of the United States George Washington appears on the obverse (heads side) of each coin. This design, with some modest revisions, has appeared on all quarters issued by the United States since 1932.

Obverse inscriptions read "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," and "QUARTER DOLLAR." Every obverse also has a mintmark indicating where it was made with a "P" for Philadelphia, a "D" for Denver and an "S" for San Francisco.

An official release ceremony for the American Memorial Park quarter is scheduled for later this month on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 10am. The ceremony will be at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Saipan.

The evening before, April 29, a coin forum will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theatre from 5pm to 6:pm.

This coin is the second of five in 2019 and 47th overall from the U.S. Mint's America the Beautiful Quarters Program. When completed, the series will have featured 56 unique designs commemorating national sites in each state, the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories.

Along with these quarters, the U.S. Mint also strikes five-ounce silver coins containing the same basic designs. They are produced from 99.9 percent pure silver and have a diameter of 3 inches.

Five-ounce options include bullion coins intended for investors that are sold through the U.S. Mint's network of authorized purchasers and uncirculated coins intended for collectors that are available directly from the U.S. Mint. The American Memorial Park Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coin will debut Thursday, April 4, for $154.95. ***(www.coinnews.net)***

THAT'S

From Page 1

64, a maintenance worker at Saipan World Resort, immediately noticed that the body was that of a different person.

In an interview Monday, Dela Cruz said that, upon the opening of the casket, he and his other workers concluded it was not Bernados'.

One thing that tipped him off was that the body had long hair; he said Bernados was a skinhead.

He said the priest then asked them to call Borja Funeral Parlor, which reclaimed the body.

Dela Cruz said that Bernados had a tattoo mark "Palau boy" on the left shoulder, but the body that was brought to San Jose Church had none.

He said Bernados' body was supposed to be flown to the Philippines the next day, March 15. He said they later learned that their coworker's body was cremated at Borja Funeral Parlor and subsequently sent to a family in Hawaii.

Apparently, the family of the man who was mistaken as Bernados asked for cremation and for the ashes to be taken to Hawaii.

Bernados had a brother on Saipan. The brother and coworkers and friends had a daily rosary at San Jose Church. The body was only sent to the church on the last day of the rosary since police were investigating the death.

Saipan Tribune learned that Bernados was still able to report for work at Saipan World Resort last Feb. 26, but he did not show up for work the following day.

Dela Cruz said he knocked on the door of Bernados' unit at their barracks last Feb. 28 at 5:30pm to check on him, but there was no response.

Another co-worker who stays in the adjacent room came out and Dela Cruz and the co-worker checked the room and noticed that it was unlocked. They then smelled a foul odor and saw Bernados lying lifeless on the bed. That's when they called 911.

Dela Cruz and his co-workers recalled that last Feb. 25, a day before Bernados last reported for work, Bernados was drunk and fell on the stairs in the barracks.

Saturnino "Atoy" Banting, supervisor at the Saipan World Resort maintenance department, said he heard that, based on the autopsy, no foul play was found and that Bernados had died from a stroke.

Banting confirmed that Bernados had a "Palau boy" tattoo on his left shoulder as he and Bernados used to work in Palau.

Bernados used to be the driver of the late Palau governor Roman Tmetuchl.

Bernados' wife and four children are in Cabanautan, Nueva Ecija in the Philippines.

Co-workers said Bernados, who loved to sing and was very friendly, first went home to the Philippines in 2017 after being away for 17 years.

CREATIVE

From Page 3

are the members of the CNMI Cannabis Commission that were confirmed by their respective legislative delegations in the 20th Legislature.

Blanco added the 180 days has not yet kicked in since the commission, according to P.L. 20-66, needs to get organized first and come up with the regulations for the new industry in the CNMI. "Right now, we have the commission as appointed but it is not yet a working commission. Until we have the accompanying bill, so the 180 days has not kicked in."

"The governor wants us to make a move on that [House Bill 21-13]. I understand that the bill was adopted out of the [House Cannabis] committee. Now, it is just a matter of the Speaker [Attao] setting a date for our session so we could discuss the bill on the floor that could be another possible revenue source for the CNMI."

9th Circuit won't entertain further filings by convicted ex-firefighter

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit yesterday ordered that it will not entertain further filings in the closed case of Richard Sullivan Benavente, a former fireman whose 30-year imprisonment sentence for conviction of the crime of sexual exploitation of a child it had already affirmed.

This developed as Ninth Circuit Judges Consuelo M. Callahan and Barry G. Silverman denied Benavente's combined two motions to have the Ninth Circuit reconsider its ruling that affirmed his conviction. The judges did not elaborate.

Benavente filed a motion for reconsideration and a motion for reconsideration en banc.

An en banc refers to a session in which a case is heard before all the judges of the court. A panel hearing on the other hand, is heard before the court's selected judges.

In June 2018, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied as without merit Benavente's request for a review of the pleadings and have a resentencing filed by Richard Sullivan Benavente.

Manglona said Benavente's appellate counsel raised the issue of the obstruction enhancement of the sentence, and the Ninth Circuit affirmed.

Manglona said the Ninth Circuit reasoned that the enhancement of the sentence was warranted, not because Benavente had committed perjury in trial testimony in a different case, but because he had made false statements to government agents and had violated his plea agreement.

Manglona directed the clerk to close the case.

Benavente is currently serving prison term in a prison facility in New York.

In October 2017, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court's imposition of 30-year prison sentence on Benavente. The Ninth Circuit judges ruled that Manglona did not abuse her discretion in imposing a two-level sentencing enhancement on Benavente.

Manglona concluded that Benavente obstructed justice by making false statements to the U.S. government and violating his plea agreement by testifying falsely at the trial of another defendant.

Manglona sentenced Benavente in 2016 to the statutory maximum after explaining that the defendant had enticed or coerced at least two minor girls into sexual activity repeatedly in exchange for drugs, and had violated his plea agreement.

In 2013, a federal grand jury indicted Benavente on several counts of sexual exploitation of a child. He cooperated with authorities and entered into a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

In 2014, Benavente pleaded guilty to a count of sexual exploitation of a child.

FLOWER SHOP BURGLARY KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Island Touch by Philip was burglarized, the shop's second burglary this year. Video footage recently was stumbled on by the flower shop's owner.

Ordnance detonation at Marpi Blow Pit tomorrow

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, in conjunction with Joint Region Marianas-EOD, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. ilitary Unit will be conducting WWII Live Ordnance Detonation at Saipan Marpi Blow Pit tomorrow, April 4, from 8am to 12pm.

The general location of this activity will be at Marpi Blow Pit within 360 feet radius on all quadrants to 400 feet above sea level.

We would like to inform the general public that the Department of Public Safety will close the blow pit main entrance and the back road coming in from Grotto, from 8am to 12pm for the duration of this operation.

Grotto back road will be closed for the time period of this operation.

Due to the danger imposed by these activities, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from these areas during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Emergency Operation Center- State Warning Point at telephone number (670)237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-RHC-012
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 18, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM
"LUTA CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM"
ROTA HEALTH CENTER
LUTA CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Public Comment Period Extended for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS

The U.S. Navy has extended the public comment period by an additional 15 days for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). Public comments may now be submitted until **April 17, 2019**, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing military readiness activities conducted within the MITT EIS/OEIS Study Area. The draft supplement to the 2015 Final MITT EIS/OEIS supports ongoing and future activities conducted within the Study Area: at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
The Navy welcomes your review and comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments will be accepted online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

All comments must be postmarked or received online by April 17, 2019, Chamorro Standard Time, for consideration in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The draft document is available online at **www.MITT-EIS.com** or at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, and Rota Public Library.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-011

RENOVATION OF CNMI GOVERNMENT HOUSE NO. 1216 BOARD OF PAROLE

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Renovation of CNMI Government House No. 1216 Board of Parole**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 3, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 19, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 25, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-011"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time May 3, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, May 3, 2019, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 3, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October **May 14, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 17, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 3, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

NICK M. REYES
Board of Parole Officer

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Man pleads not guilty to domestic violence charges

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was arrested on Tinian for allegedly beating his girlfriend and throwing a tire at her pleaded not guilty to all the charges made against him.

Brandon Mundo Aldan, 21, through his lawyer Joey Patrick San Nicolas, offered a not guilty plea to the charges of assault and battery, strangulation, and criminal mischief.

Aldan appeared out of custody with his third-party custodian during his arraignment last Monday.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja scheduled a status conference for Aldan on May 13, 2019 at 9:30am on Saipan.

San Nicolas requested that the pre-trial hearings be held on Saipan because his client is currently working on island.

Assistant attorney general Frances Demapan, who appeared in behalf of the government, did not object to the defendant's request.

Aldan, a Tinian resident, was arrested after attending a party last March 9 for throwing a tire at his girlfriend in a fit of rage after also allegedly choking and punching her.

According to court information, the victim contacted Department of Public Safety last March 9 at about 10:14pm, requesting police assistance because her boyfriend, Aldan, was allegedly beating her.

At the scene, officers noticed that the victim had a slight swelling on her face and damage to the vehicle she was in.

The victim told police that she and Aldan had attended a family party prior to the incident. She said Aldan got drunk at the party and tried to pick a fight with everyone at the party, even his own brother.

As the victim and Aldan were leaving, she said that they offered Aldan's brother and his girlfriend a ride but, during the ride, Aldan and his brother got into an argument, to the point where Aldan allegedly chased his brother and his girlfriend out of the car and told them to walk home.

The victim said that, after the argument, she pulled over at the Natibu Park to talk with Aldan and she told him that she did not want to go home with him when he is angry.

Aldan began to argue with the victim and she told him to get out of the car. Aldan then allegedly slapped the victim and punched her before exiting. Aldan then walked over to the passenger side and allegedly choked the victim. After that, Aldan allegedly took a spare tire from behind the car and threw it at the windshield of the vehicle. Aldan also took a pipe from behind the car and continued to hit the victim's vehicle.

Aldan ran away after the victim called the police but he was later traced back to his residence where he was arrested.

RAFFLE WINNER

To mark its 45th anniversary, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners throughout 2019. Pacifica Insurance staff member, Francine Palacios, right, presents Sherlyn Jones, left, the free car service gift certificate. Jones is the fourth winner of the giveaway promotion and will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co., which includes free oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services. For more information about this car service giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/45years .

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Thursday, April 4, 2019—8am-4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Susupe and Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Texas Road, Susupe and Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-11 and A-9
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Friday, April 5, 2019—8am- 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Susupe and Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Texas Road, Susupe and Chalan Kanoa
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: A-11 and A-9
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Saturday, April 6, 2019—8am-4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Kagman 3
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Algeta Drive Kagman 2 and Kagman 3
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: KG-7, KG-8, KG-14
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace six wooden poles with concrete poles

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the company Primary Source Electric to safely replace 20 wooden poles with concrete poles in the aforementioned villages. The replacement of wooden poles with concrete poles is a continuation of CUC's ongoing restoration effort which is aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system which was affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesComoration/). ***(PR)***

USCIS launches H-1B Employer Data Hub

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has launched an H-1B Employer Data Hub to provide information to the public on employers petitioning for H-1B workers. The data hub is part of the agency's continued effort to increase transparency in employment-based visa programs by allowing the public to search for H-1B petitioners by fiscal year (back to FY 2009), NAICS code, employer name, city, state, or ZIP code. This will give the public the ability to calculate approval and denial rates and to review which employers are using the H-1B program. Data for individual fiscal years is available to download on the H-1B Employer Data Hub Files page. To help the public use the data hub and understand the terminology in it, USCIS has also created the Understanding Our H-1B Employer Data Hub page.

USCIS will provide cumulative quarterly updates and annual releases of the data and we anticipate updating the H-1B Employer Data Hub quarterly. For example, data for the first quarter (October-December) of a fiscal year will be provided in April of that fiscal year.

The H-1B program allows employers in the United States to temporarily employ foreign workers in occupations that require the theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge and a bachelor's degree or higher in the specific specialty, or its equivalent. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Probate Workshop tomorrow postponed

Due to a possible a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power outage affecting the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Probate Workshop by Micronesian Legal Services Corp., set for Thursday, April 4, 2019, is being postponed to Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 3:30pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. This will be the fourth in the probate workshop series, and will focus on the Probate timeline (what has to be done when, and how much time everything takes). The workshop is free to the public and all are invited to attend. For more information, call MLSC at 234-7729. ***(PR)***

Saipan chamber meeting on CNMI PWS today

Members of the business community are invited to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce April general membership meeting today, April 3, at Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

The focus on this meeting is to give updates on the 2019 CNMI Wage Survey process and to answer questions regarding its implementation. The presenters will include the private and public collaborators who are supporting the survey.

The luncheon begins at 11:30pm and with the meeting portion starting promptly at noon. Tickets are $25 for Chamber members and $35 for non-members. To RSVP six or more attendees, email Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at administrator@saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 in Susupe.

The Prevailing Wage Survey is a collaboration between the Office of the Governor, the U.S. Department of Labor, CNMI Department of Labor, the CNMI Central Statistics Division under the CNMI Department of Commerce, and the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. SCC is contracting with Hive Analytics and DataTalks to implement the survey. ***(PR)***

Weightlifting competition on Saipan

CNMI Weightlifting will hold a weightlifting competition on Saipan on May 18, 2019, at a time and place to be announced later. ***(PR)***

ESGR chair to speak at SHRM meeting

Donald Clark will discuss ESGR services in the CNMI as well as the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) including how USERRA affects employment and the rights and responsibilities of employers under USERRA. This labor law may be complicated and confusing, yet relevant, for many employers in the CNMI. Clark will also discuss how to build or improve relationships with your employee's military supervisors or managers.

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter invites its members, associated HR and management staff, and interested members of the public to attend its next general membership meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at Charley's Cabaret at PIC beginning at 11:30am.

This meeting is open to the public and will provide invaluable information for employers, managers, and HR professionals and staff. The presentation includes the PIC Magellan lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at http://nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

MileagePlus crowned best airline reward program in the Americas

GUAM—United's MileagePlus loyalty program was recognized as the Best Reward Program of any airline in the Americas by FlyerTalk, an online community of frequent travelers who participate in an annual survey to determine the best travel programs and benefits. Voters also named the complimentary Economy Plus upgrades that MileagePlus Premier members enjoy the most "Outstanding Benefit" of any airline program in the Americas.

"What is especially meaningful about the FlyerTalk Awards is that they come directly from frequent, experienced travelers. We are proud of the recognition this community has given MileagePlus and the benefits we provide to our members," said Luc Bondar, United's president of MileagePlus and vice president of Loyalty.

United offers the most award destinations of any U.S. carrier between United and Star Alliance award flights, which serve over 1,300 destinations in more than 190 countries. MileagePlus members earn award miles by flying United, United Express, Star Alliance airlines or other airline partners, and by purchasing products or services from partners around the globe. Members can use these miles to access unique opportunities across the travel journey, including air travel, hotel stay, car rentals, and one-of-a-kind experiences money can't buy through MileagePlus Exclusives.

United continues to enhance its MileagePlus program, offering members new ways to earn and redeem miles as well as increased benefits. Recent highlights include:

The launch of the new United MileagePlus Explorer Card, which now offers an expanded 2 miles per $1 spent on hotel accommodations and restaurant purchases in addition to 2 miles per $1 spent on purchases with United, plus travel benefits and inflight a discount on inflight wi-fi, food and drinks.

Recent enhancements to the industry-leading MileagePlusX app to enable more ways for members to earn and use miles every day while shopping or dining.

Continued expansion of MileagePlus Exclusives, allowing members to use miles on unique and memorable experiences with a VIP touch across a wide range of mileage levels.

Greater opportunities to use miles starting as low as 1,000 for e-gift cards.

■ A new boarding process for all customers, allowing Premier 1K and Premier Gold members to board in an earlier group.

Every customer. Every flight. Every day.

In 2019, United is focusing more than ever on its commitment to its customers, looking at every aspect of its business to ensure that the carrier keeps customers' best interests at the heart of its service. In addition to today's announcement, United recently released a reimagined version of the most downloaded app in the airline industry and made DIRECTV free for every passenger on 211 aircraft, offering more than 100 channels on seat back monitors on more than 30,000 seats. The multimillion-dollar investment in improving inflight entertainment options will benefit the more than 29 million people expected to fly United's DIRECTV-enabled planes this year.

About United

United's shared purpose is "Connecting People. Uniting the World." We are more focused than ever on our commitment to customers through a series of innovations and improvements designed to help build a great experience: Every customer. Every flight. Every day. Together, United Airlines and United Express operate approximately 4,800 flights a day to 353 airports across five continents. In 2018, United and United Express operated more than 1.7 million flights carrying more than 158 million customers. United is proud to have the world's most comprehensive route network, including U.S. mainland hubs in Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, New York/Newark, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. United operates 770 mainline aircraft and the airline's United Express carriers operate 559 regional aircraft. United is a founding member of Star Alliance, which provides service to 193 countries via 28-member airlines. For more information, visit united.com, follow @United on Twitter and Instagram or connect on Facebook. The common stock of United's parent, United Continental Holdings, Inc., is traded on the Nasdaq under the symbol "UAL." ***(PR)***

NMC UPDATES NMC

Members of the Senate's Health, Education, and Welfare Committee recently met with Northern Marianas College leaders to discuss the college's typhoon recovery efforts, future plans, and workforce development programs, including NMC's nursing program. Among other presenters, the HEW Committee members heard from nursing students and also the CHCC's director of nursing, who talked about the critical role the NMC nursing program plays as part of the overall hospital's human resource initiatives.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8500; Fax: (670) 664-8540
www.deq.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 9:30 AM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of December 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
A. CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-111, Amendment 2019-1
Project: ISA VILLA MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX PROJECT
The proposed expansion project is the Phase II construction of the Isa Villas Multifamily Development Complex which includes 86 additional housing units. With this expansion, the multifamily complex would have a total of 6 concrete buildings with 113 housing units, 150 regular parking spaces and 6 ADA-compliant parking stalls, a communal/recreational space, community center, and driveway. The project is located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, on Lot No. 150 E 30. Estimated cost for the construction of the multifamily complex is about $25,132,125.19.

1) Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
2) Agencies' Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Application Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS
1V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Pacific Partnership multinational team arrives in Micronesia

PHOTOS BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS TYRELL K. MORRIS

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Erika Schilling, left, and Lt. j.g. Natalie Spritzer teach a "helping babies breathe" class to local Chuukese women and girls during Pacific Partnership 2019 in Chuuk last March 31. Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase stability and security in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific.

CHUUK, Federated States of Micronesia—The multinational crew aboard Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport ship USNS *Brunswick* (T-EPF 6) arrived in the Lower Mortlock Islands March 31 to support local communities' recovery from the aftermath of Typhoon Wutip as part of the Pacific Partnership 2019 mission to the islands.

The Pacific Partnership team, which recently departed the Marshall Islands, expanded the mission with activities in the outlying islands, providing support to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in close coordination with local authorities, the U.S. Embassy and USAID.

"Pacific Partnership is about working together," said Royal Navy Capt. Paddy Allen, director of mission for Pacific Partnership 2019. "We have an adaptable mission, agile platform and amazing expertise that allows us to bring together a network of partners where and when they are needed."

The additional stops will leverage Brunswick's ability to maneuver in shallow waters along with expertise from military personnel from the U.S., Australia, Japan, Peru, and the United Kingdom. The Pacific Partnership team will work in tandem with local experts on nearly a dozen islands within Weno, as well as the Lower Mortlock Islands and Northwest Islands.

During the stops, events are planned along Pacific Partnership's main focus areas. Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief professionals will work with local experts to help develop local response capacities and help them prepare for future disaster scenarios. Engineering teams will work construction projects that support enhancing local community infrastructure. Medical personnel will conduct health care engagements side-by-side with local medical professionals.

U.S. Army Soldiers move a water tank during Pacific Partnership 2019 in Chuuk last March 31.

"The mission capabilities that Pacific Partnership and Brunswick bring allow us to support the people of Micronesia in the aftermath of the typhoon and help them prepare for future extreme weather events," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Marc Davis, mission chief staff officer aboard Brunswick. "With our mission's focus on working collectively with partner nations in enhancing regional interoperability and partner nation disaster response capabilities, we decided to review and modify our Pacific Partnership mission to provide support to FSM's recovery efforts."

Pacific Partnership began in response to one of the world's most catastrophic natural disasters, the December 2004 tsunami that devastated parts of South and Southeast Asia. The mission has evolved over the years from emphasis on direct care to an operation focused on enhancing partnerships through host nation subject matter expert and civil-military exchanges.

Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster response preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase stability and security in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships across the Indo-Pacific. ***(PR)***

U.S. Navy sailors aboard a rigid hull inflatable boat prepare to receive a Pelican case during boat operations alongside Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Brunswick (T-EPF 6) during Pacific Partnership 2019 in Chuuk last March 31.

Erika Schilling laughs with a Chuukese girl after teaching a "helping babies breathe" class during Pacific Partnership 2019 in Chuuk last March 31.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 3, 2000

CPA reports slowdown in inbound cargoes

The Commonwealth Ports Authority over the weekend reported a major decline in the volume of activities in the islands' three major seaport facilities for the month ending February 29, 2000 compared with year-ago figures. A report submitted to the finance committee of the CPA Board of Directors disclosed that gross revenue tonnage fell by three percent in February 2000 primarily due to a dramatic drop in the volume of inbound cargo. The volume of incoming beverages dropped by 12 percent, cement by 26 percent while raw textile imports fell by 16 percent.

Meeting with Continental spurs optimism for more flights

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has expressed confidence over improved flight service by Continental Micronesia between the Northern Marianas and key Asian cities in light of increasing number of visitors to the island. Buoyed by the outcome of a recent meeting with the airline's representative, he also said a better relationship and more cooperative efforts are in the offing with the Guam-based carrier. During the meeting last Wednesday, the House of Representatives spoke about the possibility of offering tax breaks and other incentives to the largest carrier in Micronesia in hopes to help sell the CNMI in Asia, its main tourism market, as well as to reduce airfares.

April 3, 2005

Over $1M increase sought by NMC in FY 2006 budget

Northern Marianas College is pitching a budget that would increase appropriations by $1.2 million over the current fiscal year, including an average 6-percent salary hike for all personnel. The $9.26 million proposal represents an 11 percent increase in the general operations funding and a 40 percent increase in vocational program funding. In its FY 2006 appropriations budget proposal, NMC asked the administration for $7.58 million for general operations and $1.68 million for its apprentice programs, including nursing, education, construction, management, and hospitality. NMC president Antonio Deleon Guerrero noted that institution-wide needs initially identified by the NMC Finance and Procurement Office exceeded by $2.7 million the college's current $8.05-million appropriation.

NMC to save $300K from lab school closure

Northern Marianas College stands to save an estimated $300,000 a year from the scheduled closure of the NMC Laboratory School at the end of this school year. NMC finance director Raaj Kurapati disclosed on Friday that the lab school, which serves as training ground for School of Education students, costs an annual average of $470,000 to operate. Expenditures include salaries and benefits of the principal and four instructors, and rent for the four buildings occupied by the lab school at the Joeten Housing area in Fina Sisu. Meanwhile, the school only brings in some $170,000 in total income every year. Revenues come from the tuition and fees paid by students. NMC president Antonio Deleon Guerrero said the college would have no choice but to terminate the contracts of the five personnel working at the lab school.

April 3, 2006

PSS teacher turnover rate higher than nat'l average

Teacher turnover in the CNMI Public School System is slightly higher than the national average, according to Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos.

She said the turnover rate in local public schools is 11.5 percent during a five-year period covering 2002-2006. In contrast, the rate at private schools in the Commonwealth ranks lower than the U.S. average at 16 percent. In a letter to the chairperson of the Board of Education's Fiscal, Personnel, and Administration Committee, Inos noted that the turnover rate recorded in school year 2001 to 2002 was 8.9 percent, while in 2002 to 2003 it rose to 12.7 percent. In 2003 to 2004, the turnover rate decreased to 10.9 percent; in 2004 to 2005 it again rose to a whopping 14.5 percent. The turnover rate plunged to 11.3 percent in 2005 to 2006.

MVA in Shanghai for World Travel Fair

China, the world largest outbound tourist market, continues to be one of the Marianas Visitors Authority's target markets for the CNMI. This past week, the MVA was in Shanghai, promoting the destination to both the travel trade and consumers. The MVA, through its office in Shanghai, participated in a variety of public relations activities, from hosting a media conference reaching out to the travel trade and consumers, to attending the Shanghai World Travel Fair, highlighting the CNMI's attractions. During the press conference, media from World Traveller, Travel Times, The Travel Channel (a satellite TV station) were shown current amenities and products the CNMI provides the Chinese travelers. "This was another opportunity for the CNMI to showcase the CNMI as a preferred destination for the Chinese outbound travelers.

GMS students showcase costumes out of recyclable materials

PHOTOS By ARTHUR ANDA

Green Meadow School's middle school students showed off their original creations of beautiful recycled costumes during their Fashion Night last March 15 at Life in the Son Church.

With the help of Ronald Valiente, middle school art teacher, the students were able to produce their sketches and the design of the costumes. The students were split into groups to make an original costume using recyclable objects only and model it in the program.

The program was a big success. Aside from showcasing the costumes, the Mandrin class also rendered a Mandarin song.

Valiente remarked, "The program is not bad, but if we are going do it next year, we need more polishing and preparation."

Daniel Gonzales, and 8th grader, said, "It was successful. We just need a little more stuff to do on the program like games, talents of each model, etc. I hope that the people who will make the program can make it exciting and interesting."

Seventh grader, Joseph Jimenez also commented, " Fashion Night was a truly remarkable night. It was a great opportunity for the middle schoolers to show their talent in front of their teachers, parents, and friends. It also allowed the students to work together in forming this special event. It was a truly fun and memorable night, and I look forward to having another special event as this one."

This was truly a remarkable night the middle school students will never forget. The students did not only showed their creativity and their ability to coordinate or produce a program, but they helped promote awareness on saving Mother Earth. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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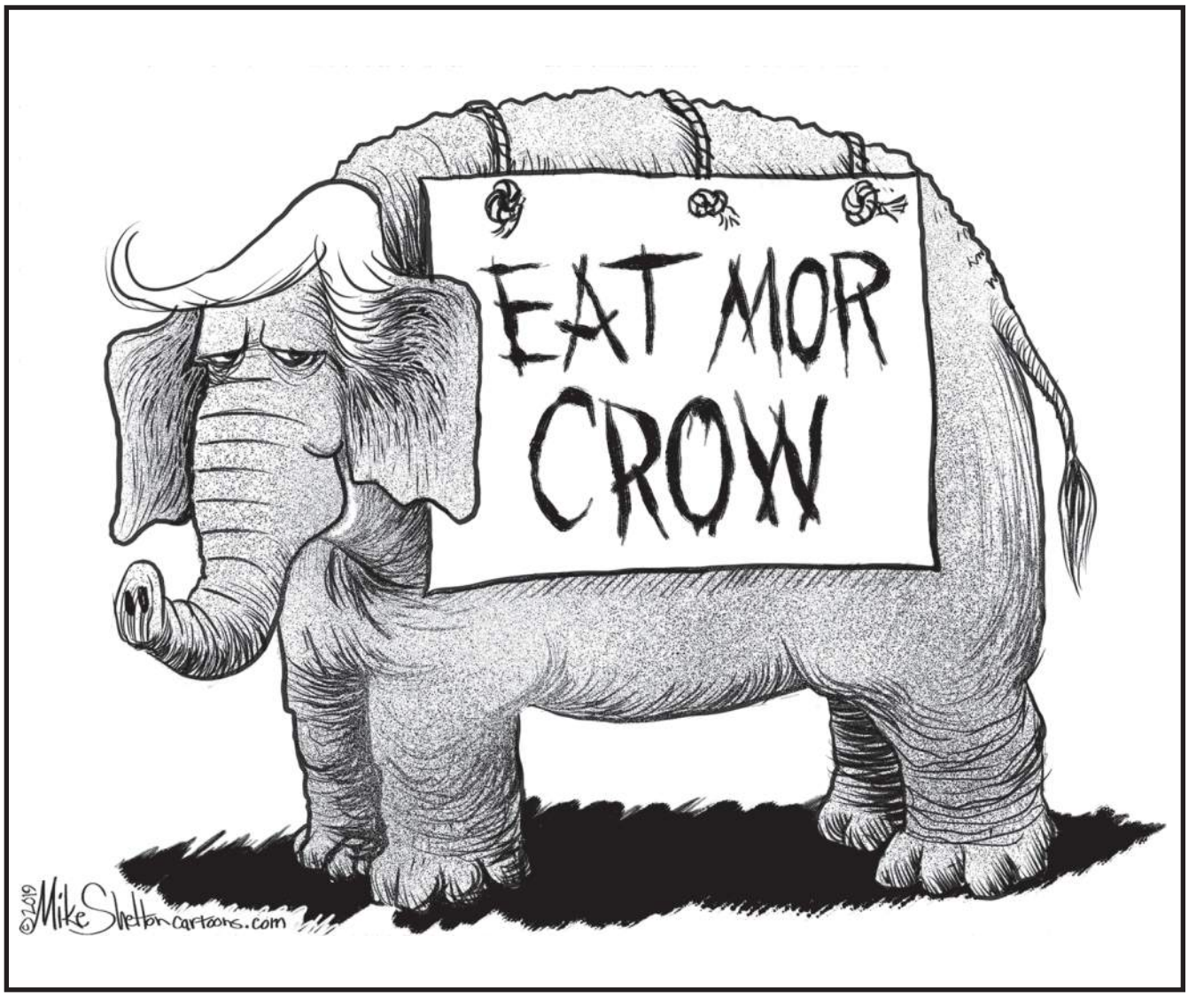


EDITORIAL

Political malpractice: Trump's new attack on the ACA

President Donald Trump, having defeated those striving to tar him with colluding with the Russian government to win the White House, was expected to devote all his energy to a long, needling victory lap. Instead, he quickly plunged back into an old battle, picking a fight with Democrats on an issue in which they've consistently outpolled him — and he is doing so with no weapons, no plan, no clear goal and few allies.

Trump's Justice Department now wants a federal appeals court to strike down the Affordable Care Act in its entirety. Until Monday, the Justice Department had defended much of what remained of the ACA after Congress repealed the fine imposed for refusing to buy insurance. While the administration always argued that the end of the fine should mean the end of the mandate for individuals to carry coverage and the key provision that insurers must cover pre-existing conditions, the federal government is now siding with Republican state governors to overturn the entire law.

The new stance startled and dismayed Trump's closest allies in Congress, and was opposed by some of the strongest forces in his Cabinet.

Tuesday, Trump told reporters that, "The Republican Party will soon become the party of health care," having tweeted out the same sentiment a few hours earlier. That's a worthy goal, but there is not even a whisper of a plan to make it so. And losing the Affordable Care Act with no replacement plan would be disastrous for both the GOP and those people, many of them Republicans, who would lose coverage.

Repeal of the ACA could throw the nation's health care system and the lives of tens of millions of people into a chaos many Republican members of Congress and Trump have repeatedly promised to avoid. That's why every attempt to repeal the ACA legislatively failed. If the ACA disappears, approximately 23 million people could lose their health insurance, including 12 million now on Medicaid, 9 million who receive federal subsidies to buy coverage and 2 million young adults who get coverage through their parents' plans. Close to 3 million New Yorkers could lose coverage.

Medically assisted treatment for opioid addicts would be slashed. Lifetime coverage caps could be reintroduced, meaning those who need care most would lose all coverage once their treatments became too expensive. Bankruptcies would again skyrocket. Many would lose access to free mammograms, cholesterol tests and birth control. And about 130 million Americans with pre-existing conditions might not be able to get health insurance, or might not be covered for their existing problems by the policies they can get, or might have to pay staggering rates.

Thus far, Trump and his acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, are just about the only Republicans arguing for the ACA to fall, claiming they have a better plan. GOP senators and House members are united in saying they have no replacement plan and no idea how to appease their constituents if the ACA simply goes away.

Trump might have hoped that Democrats in the House of Representatives would respond by demanding a single-

See POLITICAL on Next Page

US engages in 'citizenship apartheid' regarding Puerto Rico

By RAUL EDUARDO ROSAS
The Baltimore Sun

Raul Eduardo Rosas is retired from the United States Navy and is executive director and founder of Lift a Vet, a non-profit based in Columbia, Md. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

It is high time the United States extended the right to vote in presidential elections to the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico. Enactment of a constitutional amendment to secure this right would be a sensible first step to full enfranchisement until the more contentious issue of statehood is resolved.

The Puerto Rican suffrage question recently attained a new level of urgency and relevance after a U.S. district court judge ruled that the federal government's denial of disability benefits for the island's most vulnerable residents is unconstitutional.

In a scorching opinion, Judge Gustavo Gelpí — a George W. Bush appointee — accused the United States of engaging in a "citizenship apartheid" that excludes Puerto Ricans from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program simply because they live in a U.S. territory.

Their "Hispanic origin" has driven U.S. policy on the island, "despite their birthright United States citizenship," he wrote. "Allowing a United States citizen in Puerto Rico (who) is poor and disabled to be denied SSI disability payments creates an impermissible second rate citizenship akin to that premised on race and amounts to Congress switching off the Constitution."

His ruling takes on the legacy of the Insular Cases, a series of controversial early 20th century Supreme Court decisions that cast the inhabitants of the United States' newly acquired overseas territories as unfit to become citizens — and thus unworthy of certain constitutional protections, including trial by jury.

While the U.S. did award American citizenship to Puerto Ricans in 1917, Congress and successive administrations have continued to withhold the sacrosanct Fifth Amendment rights of Due Process and Equal Protection, as Judge Gelpí aptly demonstrates.

An arguably broader abuse of power — the denial of voting rights to the commonwealth's 3.2 million U.S. citizens — renders them unrepresented in Washington and unable to protect their interests nationally.

Denial of suffrage should in itself be enough for Congress to act; three additional arguments bolster the case.

First, Puerto Rico's population makes it larger than 21 states, all other U.S. territories and Washington D.C. That's a lot of disenfranchised people, whose combined federal tax bills total more than $3 billion a year.

Second, there's legal precedent. The 23rd Amendment, ratified in 1961, gave District of Colombia residents the right to vote in U.S. presidential elections. And the new House leadership is on record as the first in a generation to endorse D.C. statehood.

But perhaps the most powerful rationale is based on the blood and valor of Puerto Rico's military veterans.

Since 1917, more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have served in the U.S. military; since the Korean War, 1,225 have died on the battlefield. More than 100,000 veterans currently live in Puerto Rico.

These numbers are vastly disproportionate to the island's population — yet despite the sacrifice none has a say in our democracy.

Puerto Rico's sons and daughters have featured prominently in every major U.S. military conflict dating back to the American Revolution, when they fought as Spanish subjects.

During the Civil War, San Juan native Lt. Augusto Rodriguez commanded the 15th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, later receiving the Army Civil War Campaign Medal.

These events occurred well before the U.S. annexed the island in 1898. Since then, Puerto Rico has become a key strategic location.

In World War I, San Juan headquartered American forces protecting shipping lanes and monitoring hostile activity in the eastern Caribbean and central Atlantic. By 1943, more than 55,000 service personnel were deployed around the island. Later, the U.S. used its Puerto Rican bases to project power and keep watch on Cold War rivals Cuba and the USSR.

Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment ("Borinqueneers"), was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 — the first Hispanic military unit and first Korean War unit to re-

See PUERTO RICO on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mattirun Suetdun Popble

Suetdun popble yan tumunog ekonomia humogse Marianas guine na rimulinun eskases. Gi mismu tiempu i kutturan ina`ayuda kumatsun ñaihon familia siha gi halum este na didog chinatsaga.

I maribahan fondu gi kaha tat kumu $12-$18 miyon indikasion na menus i rinikohen aduana (taxes) na biahe. Lau mahatsa apas kandet gi talulu` gi halum sapet yan baratu na suetdun popble sin konsiderasion gi ha`anen familia siha. Todu este na aminasu kontra i tautau?

I dos asuntu kumukote hit guine na biahe. Estague` umutut appottunidat cho`chu` yan pagamientu ni fumuñut kinalamten-ta. I segundu mas didog na chinatsaga pot makat mata`lun hatsa tatte. Hiniyuñg fiñkas Japones!

Kase 15-mit na empleau gumagana suetdun popble entalu` $15-mit esta $42-mit gi sakan. Gai chinatsaga `nai ti nanahuñg para mantension familia. In` hassu na i dos pinadese kase $14 biyon maliñgu ginen Marianas.

Gi halum este na pinadese i sensian ina`ayuda sumustene yan tumampen ñaihon chinatsaga-ta. Estague` `nai tana` anchu kanai umayuda haye mas munesessita ayudu. Kutturan ina`ayuda muna` fan sasafu hit gi halum este na mattirun pinepble.

Para i umusune, guaha otru lugat `nai masosoda` i tetehnan na fondu? Pat mapega gi manadan dibi gi fina` tendan bisinu ni mana daña yan ayudun food stamps? Makat `nai baratu mampus i suetdu. Lau muñga hinalañg sa` todu man-pinalala`e.

Guaha planu para uma-adelanta suetdun popble fuera de "not yet, already?"

Gi halum este na mattiru mauleg i metgut na sensian ina`ayuda gi satbasion hinanau todus mientras tantus.

Bentaha para i hihot na familia. Tat ti man-ayuda gi nesessidat i tropa. Maseha dididi` lau estaya guaha para usun familia. Chansan adelantun suetdu?

■■■

Fiñkas: Maribaha fondun Marianas $12 miyon ginen gastun dos pagyu gi utimun i ma`pus na sakan.

Tinatiye este ni hiniyuñg fiñkas Japones guine gi alacha. Layeye ira tumutuhun este na chinatsaga.

Siña ta rikohiye i mefe`na lau makat i segundu pot fiñkas Japones ni marikohe ya man-hanau tatte gi tanu` niha. Hinanau "sayonara". Haf` siknifikasioña este kontra kinalamtenta guine?

Hu siente na guaha fina` minala`et gi paladat niha. Hu huñgug ta fatta na achog u fan hanau siña hit sin siha. Mauleg `an magahet na siña ta katsun maisa hit. Manu `nai gaige ennau na katsu?

Finattun Japones mage gi mediu sisienta siha na sakan umestablese industrian turista guine. Maseha dikiki` lau estaya guaha tinituhon-ta man-na`halum fondu para nesessidatta siha.

Kase masiente ni los probes na man-malagresidu hit na tautague. Man-malefa hit na ginen animun yan fiñkas niha umadelanta tano`ta gi hilu mauleg na sensia yan relasion. Ti namanman `an ha pakete siha todus ya madiñgu i tanu`. Lastima!

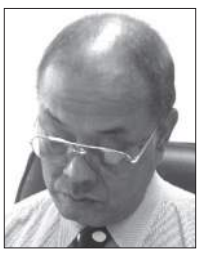
Pot taya` fitme na pisun ekonomia guine mina` presisu na ta adahe haf` guaha ni kumakatsu setbisiun publiku siha pa`gu. Esta poduñg fondota $12 miyon. Mas u menus `nai gi mismu tiempu kanaha` taya` otru chachalaña para ta rikohiye i maliñgu. Kau esta ha hogse hit tiempun ha`ilas? Dios mihu!

Dañu: Hafa na ta sesede militat kumontinua destrosiun tanu` yan tasi guine? Na ti este i dos lugat `nai man-rikohe mantension familia i natibu deste antigu na tiempu? Na ti esta pa`gu ta añgoñgog-hu alimientun tasi gi oriyata? Deste ñgai`an i natibu `nai chumochu bala gi sentadaña? Na para i militat ginen destrosiun guaguan na tanu` yan tasin natibun este siha na petlas!

Gigau: Kase sitienta siha na sakan uttimu huli`e usun gigau. Un` klasen peska `nai mapanag ni peskadot i hanum tasi para uma-espanta i guihan guatu gi gigau. Dispues de makone ma-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



patten ñaihon gi halum peskadot. Kontodu bisinu masuette para fina` sena gi makatdu `sino inaflitun guihan.

Mauleg na patte gi hinanau natibu. Lau dispues todu tinagam gi areglamientun presetbasion yan otru siha areglu. Achog talaya debi umalisensia lau hagas usun man-amku` gi tasi.

Pinadese: Gaige gi repot gaseta na guaha 1,022 na tautau guine mantai gima`. Marikonose lamegai na familia ni man-ginacha` nu este na chinatsaga. Mauleg sa` humalum i ahensian guma` para u ina kabales haf` na tai guine masusede.

Todu klasen dopblada fumafana` familia ni ti muna` siña umapase fanliheñg niha. Deste tai che`chu` i padre de familia `sino malañgu uno gi dos saina yan otru siha sapet gi ha`anen niha. Puede man-masoda`e ayudu gi disiente na atuf para familian niha. Didog na chinatsaga!

Chinatsaga: Puti `an finagcha`e i tautau asuntu ni ti siña ha satban maisa. Pot ihemplo: siña gai offisiu lau taya` sahyan para u falag i moseria. Piot ya humanau i prohimu macho`chu` sin bento`. Dios mihu!

Un` usune kumesuñgun mientras fehman tinayuyot-mu na u guaha maseha dididi` na ayudu ginen un` yo`ase` na kilisyanu. Makat na pinadese lau man-suette hit ni kutturata ina`ayuda!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Time for change at DPL

Yesterday's *Saipan Tribune* article entitled "DPL Statement on Palauan Abai Project" read: "The Department of Public Lands signed an agreement for designation of use of public domain lands on May 29, 2018 with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which was signed by the attorney general on May 29, 2018."

TITLE 1: GOVERNMENT, DIVISION 2: EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

§2353. Department of Community and Cultural Affairs: Duties.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has broad responsibility over the following:

(a) Commonwealth functions in the area of social services funded in whole or in part by federal funds, provided that the department shall consult and coordinate its activities with the mayors of Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, and the islands north of Saipan when administering those functions;

(d) Historic and landmark conservation and preservation;

(e) Activities to preserve Chamorro and Carolinian heritages and traditions;

Again, how does this relate to DCCA's duties and authority? Did the AG knew or was aware of the above statue? Was the Legislature fully informed or knew of the above statue?

"Furthermore, this is not a permanent interest, as Article 6 of the assignment document states that at the end of each 10-year period, or sooner at grantor's discretion, may conduct a land use review of this designation to ascertain compliance with the intended use of the premises stated herein."

There is nothing in the CNMI Constitution nor does the CNMI Code gives DPL authority to grant freely the designated public land without public purpose or for the benefit of NMD's other than to designate public lands for homestead and lease public lands for the benefit of NMD's as mandated. The question now is "where do you get that authority?" This is an abuse of authority and fiduciary duties delegated to you. What happened in the past did not materialize as you seem to point fingers in attempt to wash your hands off. The fact is, you and the AG signed that agreement. The AG signed "AS TO FORM AND CAPACITY." Does this necessarily mean that it was OK for you to forego the Grant of Public Domain to DCCA? You had the authority to make that decision yourself and not rely on attorneys to make decisions for you as you have practiced to defect attention that it was not your fault. Time for a new secretary who is more qualified to manage and dispose public lands.

Jack Muna
Koblerville

POLITICAL

From Page 10

payer health plan. Instead, they've wisely fallen into line behind Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her small-ball idea to subtly improve the ACA while bigger shifts get a slower study.

The ACA was never perfect, and Republicans and Trump have weakened it badly. They've refused to promote the exchanges, depressing enrollment. Only 34 states accepted the Medicaid expansion, so millions of people who could have had coverage never got it. Taxes meant to fund subsidies to make coverage affordable never went into effect, and promised payments to insurance companies that lost money covering sicker and older patients at affordable rates were never made. But the ACA has helped tens of millions of people, and striking it down without a plan to replace it will do them real harm.

Many legal experts, including many conservative ones, think it unlikely that the whole law will be struck down because many other aspects of the ACA operate independent of the repealed fine for refusal to buy coverage. But the Justice Department's refusal to defend federal law is a bold political act that bolsters the legal effort to kill the law.

Today, tens of millions of Americans, with and without coverage, face medical bills they can't afford. Prices for prescription drugs many Americans depend on are outrageous. Many people who are eligible for free or subsidized coverage are not enrolled, often because they do not know they qualify. And millions of people in the 16 states that did not expand Medicaid lack free coverage they should have.

If Trump wants the GOP to be "the party of health care," as he said March 26, there is ample opportunity for that to happen. But tearing down the aspects of the ACA that make coverage affordable and available for a large segment of the nation, when he ought to be improving health care, is a prescription for political defeat. Worse, it's a direct attack on the lives and finances of the Americans he has promised to protect.

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PUERTO RICO

From Page 10

ceive such distinction.

General Douglas MacArthur praised the regiment, writing that the group gave "daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory."

For all the achievements, these patriotic citizens cannot vote for their commander in chief.

Enacting a constitutional amendment to secure voting rights would do more than reverse a legacy of discrimination. It would support Puerto Rican veterans who have been America's willing partners since the Revolution, helping to deter aggression and expand freedom.

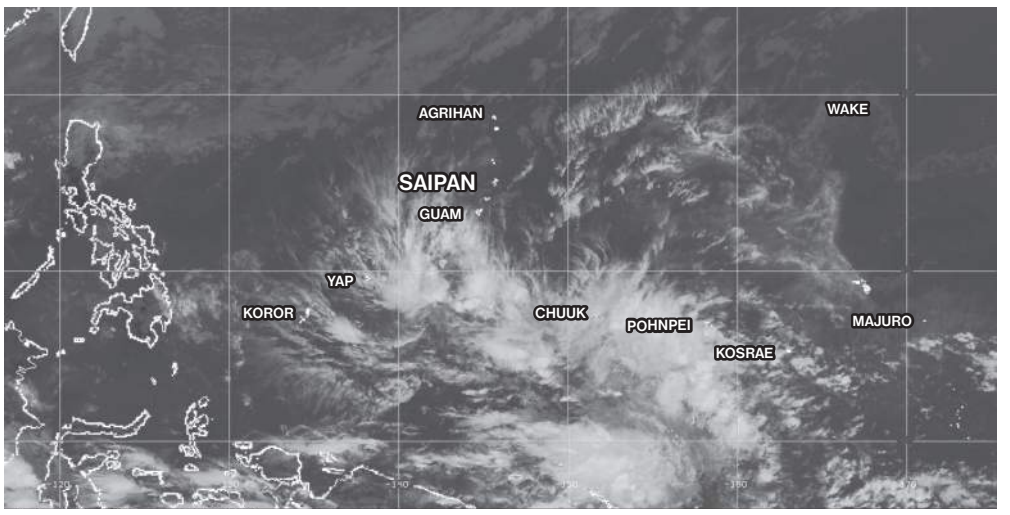
Our sacrifice validates Judge Gelpí's decision. Puerto Ricans are ready to participate actively in our democracy and become true stakeholders in it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:33 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite imagery showed isolated showers moving over the Marianas this morning. Satellite Precipitable Water imagery depicted an area of increased Precipitable Water over the Marianas. Sounding data from last night did show PWI slightly above 2 inches. This would be supportive of the showers over the area this morning. Models do show this and also indicate that the PWI should decrease and remain below 2 inches into the weekend. This is indicative of drier air pushing into the area keeping showers at minimum through the weekend. Model rainfall accumulation shows the amounts of an inch or less through Sunday. A circulation passing south of the local area will help produce an increase in clouds Thursday night through Saturday...showers will remain isolated at best.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Showers	84° / 77°
Yap	Showers	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	68° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	86° / 48°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 70°
Honolulu	Sunny	82° / 69°
London	Thunderstorms	48° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	73° / 59°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 71°
New York	Partly Cloudy	65° / 44°
Osaka	Sunny	61° / 48°
Paris	Thunderstorms	50° / 36°
Busan	Sunny	64° / 48°
Rome	Showers	61° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 48°
San Francisco	Cloudy	60° / 51°
Seoul	Sunny	59° / 45°
Tokyo	Sunny	61° / 46°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	69° / 48°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
12:04 PM	LOW TIDE	0.97
5:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:51 AM	4:52 PM	-
Thursday	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	-
Friday	6:06 AM	6:27 PM	-
Saturday	6:44 AM	7:16 PM	-
Sunday	7:23 AM	8:07 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Boeing, FAA say more time needed for fix of troubled 737 Max

Boeing and U.S. aviation regulators say the company needs more time to finish changes in a flight-control system suspected of playing a role in two deadly crashes.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Monday it anticipates Boeing's final software improvements for 737 Max airliners "in the coming weeks."

Boeing was expected to complete the work last week, but FAA spokesman Greg Martin said the company needs more time to make sure it has identified and addressed all issues.

Chicago-based Boeing offered the same timetable as it works to convince regulators that it can fix software on the planes.

"Safety is our first priority, and we will take a thorough and methodical approach to the development and testing of the update to ensure we take the time to get it right," said Boeing spokesman Charles Bickers.

Boeing needs approval not just from FAA, but elsewhere, including Europe and China, where safety officials have indicated they will conduct their own reviews.

The planes have been grounded around the world since mid-March.

The news from the FAA suggests that airlines could be forced to park their Max jets longer than they expected. Airlines that own Max jets are scrambling other planes to fill some Max flights while canceling others.

AP

In this photo taken with a fish-eye lens, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 airplane sits on the assembly line during a brief media tour in Boeing's 737 assembly facility, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in Renton, Wash.

"We are aware that the resumption of service for our 737 Max aircraft may be further delayed, and our team will work with all customers impacted by any flight cancellations," said American Airlines spokesman Ross Feinstein.

American Airlines had been pointing toward a late-April return of its 24 Max 8s. Over the weekend, Southwest Airlines announced that its 34 Max 8s will be removed from the schedule through May instead of mid-April. United Airlines has idled its 14 Max 9s through June 5.

Separately, U.S. regulators and Boeing are awaiting a preliminary report from Ethiopian investigators into the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max 8 jet shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa. The report will be scrutinized for information from the plane's data recorders that might suggest similarities between the doomed flight and the Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air Max 8 into the Java Sea off Indonesia. The two crashes killed 346 people.

Data from the Indonesian plane indicates that pilots unsuccessfully fought the automated anti-stall system for control of the plane, which plunged into the sea shortly after takeoff. According to published reports, the same system activated on the Ethiopian Airlines flight.

Boeing is making changes in an automated system that is designed to prevent the plane's nose from rising, which can lead to a dangerous aerodynamic stall. The changes include relying on readings from more than one sensor before the anti-stall system activates and pushes the nose down, and making the system's actions less severe and easier for pilots to handle. Boeing has said it will pay to train pilots on the technology.

Two American Airlines pilots who attended a session with Boeing experts last week expressed satisfaction with the manufacturer's changes. American's chief 737 pilot, Roddy Guthrie, said Boeing added "some checks and balances in the system that will make the system much better." ***(AP)***

UK Parliament rejects alternatives to May's Brexit deal

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Parliament has spoken—and it has said no, again.

Lawmakers seeking a way out of the country's Brexit morass on Monday rejected four alternatives to the government's unpopular European Union divorce deal that would have softened or even halted Britain's departure.

With just 12 days until the U.K. must come up with a new plan or crash out of the bloc in chaos, the House of Commons threw out four options designed to replace Prime Minister Theresa May's thrice-rejected Brexit deal—though in some cases by a whisker.

The result leaves May's Conservative government facing difficult and risky choices. It can gamble on a fourth attempt to push May's unloved deal through Parliament, let Britain tumble out of the bloc without a deal, or roll the dice by seeking a snap election to shake up Parliament.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay said the government would continue to seek support for a "credible" plan for leaving the EU.

"This House has continuously rejected leaving without a deal just as it has rejected not leaving at all," he told lawmakers in the House of Commons after the votes. "Therefore the only option is to find a way through which allows the U.K. to leave with a deal."

May has summoned her Cabinet for a marathon meeting Tuesday to thrash out the options. The prime minister, who is renowned for her dogged determination, could try to bring her Brexit agreement back for a fourth time later this week.

Monday's votes revealed a preference among lawmakers for a softer form of Brexit—but not a majority to make it happen.

The narrowest defeat—276 votes to 273—was for a plan to keep Britain in a customs union with the EU, guaranteeing smooth and tariff-free trade in goods. A motion that went further, calling for Britain to stay in the EU's borderless single market for both goods and services, was defeated 282-261.

A third proposal calling for any Brexit deal Britain strikes with the EU to be put to a public referendum was defeated 292-280.

The fourth, which would let Britain cancel Brexit if it came within two days of crashing out of the bloc without a deal, fell by a wider margin, 292-191.

Trump's threat to close border stirs fears of economic harm

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—President Donald Trump's threat to shut down the southern border raised fears Monday of dire economic consequences in the U.S. and an upheaval of daily life in a stretch of the country that relies on the international flow of not just goods and services but also students, families and workers.

Politicians, business leaders and economists warned that such a move would block incoming shipments of fruits and vegetables, TVs, medical devices and other products and cut off people who commute to their jobs or school or come across to go shopping.

"Let's hope the threat is nothing but a bad April Fools' joke," said economist Dan Griswold at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Virginia. He said Trump's threat would be the "height of folly," noting that an average of 15,000 trucks and $1.6 billion in goods cross the border every day.

"If trade were interrupted, U.S. producers would suffer crippling disruptions of their supply chains, American families would see prices spike for food and cars, and U.S. exporters would be cut off from their third-largest market," he said.

Trump brought up the possibility of closing ports of entry along the southern border Friday and revisited it in tweets over the weekend because of a surge of Central Americans migrants who are seeking asylum. Trump administration officials have said the influx is straining the immigration system to the breaking point.

Elected leaders from border communities stretching from San Diego to cities across Texas warned that havoc would ensue on both sides of the international boundary if the ports were closed. They were joined by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which said such a step would inflict "severe economic harm."

In California's Imperial Valley, across from Mexicali, Mexico, farmers rely on workers who come across every day from Mexico to harvest fields of lettuce, carrots, onions and other winter vegetables. Shopping mall parking lots in the region are filled with cars with Mexican plates.

More than 60 percent of all Mexican winter produce consumed in the U.S. crosses into the country at Nogales, Arizona. The winter produce season is especially heavy right now, with the import of Mexican-grown watermelons, grapes and squash, said Lance Jungmeyer, president of the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,867.19	26,258.42	7,828.91
+32.79	+329.74	+99.59
+1.16%	+1.27%	+1.29%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.41	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	65.27
British Pound	0.7647	Indian Rupee	69.21	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Japanese Yen	111.37	South Korean Won	1136.36
Chinese Yuan	6.72	Malaysian Ringgit	4.08	Swiss Franc	1
Euro	0.8923	New Zealand Dollar	1.48	Taiwan Dollar	30.82
		Philippine Peso	52.5	Thailand Baht	31.74

Nation

4 dead in 'multiple homicide' at North Dakota business

MANDAN, N.D. (AP)—Four people were found dead Monday in what police called a "multiple homicide" at a North Dakota property-management business.

The bodies of three men and a woman were discovered inside RJR Maintenance and Management in Mandan, a city of about 22,000 just across the Missouri River west of Bismarck, Police Chief Jason Ziegler said. The victims weren't immediately identified and police didn't say how they died.

"It's quite a large crime scene, so it's not something that's going to be easy for us to get in and do quickly," Ziegler said of the pace of the investigation.

Officers were combing through the building, which includes an office area in the front and a large warehouse area in the back, and planned to be there "as long as it takes us to get everything that we need," the chief said.

Ziegler said someone other than the four people who were found dead is responsible for the killings. However, police have not yet identified a suspect and have no motive.

"The crime scene is contained to where it's at, and there is no evidence based upon what we see that the public at large is in any danger from what happened there," Ziegler said. "It looks like an isolated incident."

AP

Police vehicles are seen in the backside of RJR Maintenance and Management, a property management company, Monday, April 1, 2019, Mandan, N.D.

He said he was not aware of officers responding to any other recent incidents at the business that might have been connected to the killings.

The building has many surveillance cameras, Ziegler said. He asked other businesses in the area that might have video footage they consider relevant to come forward.

Police announced in a brief statement Monday morning that they had found "several" bodies while responding to a "medical call" to RJR. As hours passed without additional information, people with friends or loved ones who work at RJR gathered beyond a police line, anxious for news about those inside.

Judy Praus, 70, said she was a longtime friend of the owner's family and had just seen them at a restaurant Saturday. She said she also knew a lot of employees, and had no details on any of them.

"When I was notified, I shattered. Unbelievable," she said.

Gina Kessel, 52, of Mandan, showed up at the business Monday to pick up her son, Mitchell Kessel, an employee there. She said Mitchell "called me, said something is going on." She said he didn't tell her what.

She and her son hugged, with both of them crying. The son declined comment before going back behind a police line.

A statement posted on the company's website said the business was closed Monday. No one answered the phone at RJR, which is somewhat isolated despite its location in a business district near a busy main road known as The Strip. A large empty lot sits in the front, a golf course in back and a soccer complex to one side.

Darin Helbling, a manager at a nearby bowling alley, said police asked to see his business' surveillance video. Helbling said the video showed only a couple of vehicles on the road that separates the businesses since 10 p.m. Sunday.

RJR's website identified it as a family-owned company that has been handling commercial and residential properties in Bismarck and Mandan for more than 20 years. Its services include collecting rent for landlords, paying mortgages, re-renting apartments, building and grounds maintenance, lawn care, and snow removal. It also rents out storage units.

A "Meet Our Team" feature on the website pictured 22 employees.

AP sources: Trump considers adding 'immigration czar'

WASHINGTON (AP)—As he threatens to shut down the southern border, President Donald Trump is considering bringing on a "border" or "immigration czar" to coordinate immigration policy across various federal agencies, according to four people familiar with the discussions.

Trump is weighing at least two potential candidates for the post: former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, according to the people, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the conversations publicly.

Kobach and Cuccinelli are far-right conservatives with strong views on immigration. Cuccinelli was seen at the White House on Monday.

The planning comes as Trump is threatening anew to close the U.S.-Mexico border as soon as this week if Mexico does not completely halt illegal immigration into the U.S. And it serves as the latest sign that the president plans to continue to hammer his hardline immigration rhetoric and policies as he moves past the special counsel's Russia investigation and works to rally his base heading into his 2020 re-election campaign.

Aides hope the potential appointment, which they caution is still in the planning stages, would serve as the "face" of the administration on immigration issues and would placate both the president and his supporters, showing he is serious and taking action.

White House press aides, Kobach and Cuccinelli did not immediately respond Monday to requests for comment. Kobach previously served as vice chair of the president's short-lived election fraud commission, which was disbanded after finding little evidence of widespread abuse.

A Department of Homeland Security official noted that White House czars have been appointed in the past when there has been an "urgent need" for sustained, inter-agency policy coordination. While Homeland Security often plays a leading role when it comes to immigration policy and enforcement, the department is not in charge of officials at the departments of Health and Human Services, State, Defense and Justice, which often play key roles.

Trump has often complained, both publicly and privately, about how he has not been able to do more to stop the tide of illegal immigration, which he has likened to an "invasion" and described as a national security crisis. Arrests along the southern border have skyrocketed in recent months and border agents were on track to make 100,000 arrests or denials of entry in March. More than half of those are families with children.

Still, Trump has been pushing. He has deployed National Guard troops to the border, forced a government shutdown to try to pressure Congress to provide more money for his long-promised border wall, and eventually signed an emergency declaration to circumvent lawmakers. He also moved Saturday to cut direct aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, where citizens are fleeing north and overwhelming U.S. resources at the southern border.

ACROSS THE NATION

Student, 14, shoots fellow eighth-grader at Arkansas school

PRESCOTT, Ark. (AP)—A 14-year-old student opened fire inside an Arkansas school on Monday, shooting and wounding a fellow eighth-grader in what appeared to be "a premeditated attack," officials said. The shooting happened about 9:15 a.m. at Prescott Junior High School in Prescott, Arkansas, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of Texarkana, Arkansas. Police Chief Joseph Beavers said the suspect came to school with a concealed handgun, shot the other 14-year-old student in a school hallway, dropped the weapon and fled. He said the teen was quickly apprehended by school resource officers who responded within seconds. "It appears this was a premeditated attack specifically targeting the injured student," the Prescott School District said in a statement. Beavers said the two students had argued over the weekend, but details about what led to that weren't immediately clear. The student who was shot was airlifted to a Little Rock hospital, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) to the northeast, in stable condition, the chief said. No other injuries were reported.

4 dead after vehicle flees wrong way on Alabama interstate

LOXLEY, Ala. (AP)—A driver trying to elude a sheriff's deputy went the wrong way on a southwest Alabama highway on Monday and hit a second vehicle head-on, killing four people. Baldwin County Sheriff Huey "Hoss" Mack told local news outlets a deputy tried to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation, setting off a chase around 1:30 p.m. The unidentified vehicle the deputy was chasing exited Interstate 10 multiple times, reversing directions, before making a U-turn on the highway and going the wrong way in the westbound lanes. The deputy lost sight of the car as it went around a curve, only to later find it had crashed, Mack said. All three people in the fleeing vehicle died after it collided with an SUV, rolled over and burned, Mack said. An SUV passenger was also killed, while its driver was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Mobile, the sheriff said, adding that he didn't know the condition of the driver. No identities have been released. Mack said investigators didn't immediately know why the vehicle fled. Authorities have not said what the initial traffic violation was. He defended the decision by his deputy to give chase.

Drugs were labeled with photo of late kingpin Pablo Escobar

NEW YORK (AP)—Drug enforcement officials in New York say they've seized narcotics labeled with a photo of infamous Colombian druglord Pablo Escobar. The Drug Enforcement Administration said Monday agents found 77 pounds (35 kilograms) of suspected heroin mixed with fentanyl during a search of an apartment in Harlem. They valued the drugs at more than $10 million. Investigators said some of the kilos were wrapped in tape with photos of Escobar and labels reading "Pablo" and "Escobar." Ray Donovan heads the DEA's New York City office. He says agents also made two arrests and seized $200,000. Escobar was the ruthless boss of the Medellin cartel and was once considered the "king of cocaine." He died in 1993.

He was a subject of the popular "Narcos" series on Netflix.

Asia

PH protests 'swarming' of Chinese boats near island

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has protested the presence of more than 200 Chinese vessels that were sighted from January to March near a Philippine-occupied island in the disputed South China Sea, officials said Monday.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the Department of Foreign Affairs lodged the protest after the military monitored about 275 Chinese vessels near Thitu island, which is called Pag-asa by Filipinos, in the Spratlys, the most hotly contested region in the busy waterway.

A regional military spokesman, Capt. Jason Ramon, said the number of spotted Chinese boats was 217, about the same number in the last quarter. It was not immediately clear why Ramon and Panelo gave different numbers.

The Chinese vessels have been sighted more than 600 times near Thitu so far this year, military officials said.

Asked if the Chinese flotilla's presence was a cause for worry, Panelo said, "Anything that concerns the security of the Philippines will always be a concern."

AP

In this April 21, 2017 file photo, engineers from NAMRIA, the central mapping agency of the Philippine Government, survey the area around the Philippine-claimed Thitu Island with a sandbar sitting on the horizon off the disputed South China Sea in the western Philippines.

Panelo did not say when the Philippines protested, but a Filipino diplomat told The Associated Press that the foreign affairs department in Manila sent a diplomatic note to the Chinese Embassy on Friday to express concern over the "swarming of Chinese boats" near Thitu. The diplomat asked not to be named because of a lack of authority to discuss the issue publicly.

China and the Philippines, along with Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei, have been disputing ownership of the strategic waters for decades.

Tensions flared in recent years, when China transformed seven disputed reefs into islands, three of which had military-grade runways, sparking protests and concerns from Western and Asian countries. The artificial islands were later reportedly installed with a missile defense system.

While China also claims ownership of Thitu, where Filipino forces and a fishing community can be found, it apparently started to deploy Chinese navy and coast guard ships and fishing boats in sizable numbers in the area in 2017 after Filipinos tried to erect shelters on one of three sandbars that naturally emerged in recent years between Thitu and a Chinese-occupied man-made island called Subi.

China protested the Philippine attempt to occupy the sandbar, prompting President Rodrigo Duterte to order a halt to the planned construction, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said at the time.

Since then, the Chinese vessels have never left the vicinity of the barren sandbars, collectively called Sandy Cay, near Thitu. The nearest sandbar in Sandy Cay is about 2.5 nautical miles (4.6 kilometers) from Thitu island.

Duterte has taken a nonconfrontational approach to the territorial disputes between China and his country as he sought Chinese trade, investment and infrastructure funding. He has refused to immediately take up with China a ruling by a U.N.-linked tribunal that invalidated Beijing's sprawling claims in the South China Sea, sparking criticism from nationalists and left-wing groups, which wanted him to demand immediate Chinese compliance with the landmark decision.

Last month, two former Philippine officials filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court accusing Chinese President Xi Jinping of crimes against humanity over his government's assertive actions in the South China Sea, which they say have deprived thousands of fishermen of their livelihood and destroyed the environment.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rescuers struggle to reach storm-hit area in Nepal; 28 dead

BHARWALIA, Nepal (AP)—Villagers who survived a powerful rainstorm that killed at least 28 people and injured hundreds in southern Nepal searched for food and shelter Monday as rescuers struggled to reach remote areas. High winds during the storm Sunday night flipped cars and blew a bus carrying at least 40 people off a highway, killing some. Police said most of the deaths were caused by collapsing walls and falling bricks in homes and toppled trees and electrical poles. The storm swept through villages in a farming region in Bara and Parsa districts. The government administrator in Bara, Rajesh Poudel, said 27 were killed there. One person died in neighboring Parsa, administrator Narayan Bhattarai said. The area is about 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of the capital, Kathmandu. Police officers and soldiers were helping people injured by the rainstorm. Villagers from neighboring districts were also distributing food to the victims. Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli canceled a visit to western Nepal and was flying to the area to observe rescue efforts, his office said. The National Emergency Operation Center in Kathmandu said 612 people were injured and teams with tents and other materials were sent to the area.

China says 30 killed fighting mountain forest fire

BEIJING (AP)—A fire high in the mountains of western China's Sichuan province has killed 30 firefighters and others, the government said Monday. The deaths occurred after a change of wind Sunday as the firefighters were battling the blaze in a rugged area at an altitude of 3,800 meters (12,500 feet), according to the Ministry of Emergency Management and the military. Among the dead were 27 firefighters and three local residents recruited to help fight the blaze, the ministry said. Nearly 700 people were battling the fire in Sichuan's Muli county that erupted on Saturday, but contact was lost Sunday with the 30. Two helicopters carrying medical staff and military personnel were dispatched to help in the search. China has been battling forest fires in recent weeks in various parts of the vast country, including on the outskirts of Beijing, fed by dry weather and high winds across many northern areas.

2 IS-linked men arrested far from Philippine militant bases

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say two Muslim militants have been arrested with guns, explosives and Islamic State group-style black flags in a northern province far from the traditional lairs of Muslim militants in the volatile south. National police chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde said Monday the arrest last week of the two militants in Baggao town in Cagayan province in the northern tip of the main Luzon island was not an indication that IS-linked militants have been able to expand their presence far beyond their traditional southern bases. Police say the militants, Altero Bello and Greg Bello, belonged to an IS-aligned jihadist group called Syuful Khilafa Fi Luzon, which was established in 2016 but does not have a record of involvement in any violent attack in the largely Roman Catholic northern region.

Analysis: Thai polls show divisions and instability remain

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's junta leader looks set to return as prime minister after a general election stacked heavily in his favor, but the process reveals that more than a decade's polarization in Thai politics is as strong as ever.

Rather than ensuring stability, the sharply divided vote almost guarantees new struggles over power, which could involve parliament, street protests or even fresh military intervention.

A self-declared "democratic front" of seven political parties says a preliminary vote count from the March 24 election shows it will be able to put together a majority in the House of Representatives.

But the junta-appointed Senate also takes part in the vote for prime minister, meaning junta leader and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha will likely need to win only one-quarter of the elected representatives in the lower house to get his job back.

Prayuth as army commander led the 2014 coup that toppled an elected government, and many people would see his taking power again through a carefully manipulated process as just the latest instance of Thai voters having their choices overruled by legal or extralegal means.

It would still be far from smooth sailing even if Prayuth and his allies in the Palang Pracharath party form a government, while the anti-junta coalition led by the Pheu Thai party holds a majority in the House of Representatives.

A Prayuth-led government "won't be able to pass laws and pass budgets," said Pornson Liengboonlertchai, a professor of political science at Bangkok's Thammasat University. "There's a likelihood that they will become an ineffective government because there could be a no confidence vote which relies on majority votes, and there's a likelihood that Prayuth will face that, a vote of no confidence."

With the final election results not being certified until May 9, there's a good chance the numbers—perhaps whittled down by disqualifications—will not give the anti-junta coalition a majority.

But this runs the risk of appearing that the junta-friendly Election Commission is helping to steal the election, creating a public backlash and the possibility of street protests.

"If they go the nuclear option and get rid of one of the parties, entirely dissolve them, then I think you may see people getting really, really, really upset," said Kevin Hewison, a professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina and veteran Thai studies scholar.

In the worst-case scenario, the failure to establish a working government could invite new intervention by the military.

"My big fear is that there's going to be another coup," Hewison said. "They'll say, 'Look, this hasn't worked, we'll set them straight again.'"

The army's excuse for staging its coup in 2014 was to end political strife that deadlocked the country's administration.

Aside from the maneuvering to form a new government, the vote showed that what Thailand's people want is not uniform and perhaps not even clear after nearly half a decade in which political activities were banned and freedoms of speech and assembly were severely restricted.

World

WWF sounds alarm after 48 lbs of plastic found in dead whale

MILAN (AP)—An 8-meter (26-foot) sperm whale was found dead off Sardinia with 22 kilograms (48.5 pounds) of plastic in its belly, prompting the World Wildlife Foundation to sound an alarm Monday over the dangers of plastic waste in the Mediterranean Sea.

The environmental group said the garbage recovered from the sperm whale's stomach included a corrugated tube for electrical works, plastic plates, shopping bags, tangled fishing lines and a washing detergent package with its bar code still legible.

The female whale beached off the northern coast of Sardinia last week, within the vast Pelagos marine sanctuary that was created as a haven for dolphins, whales and other sea life.

"It is the first time we have been confronted with an animal with such a huge quantity of garbage," Cinzia Centeleghe, a biologist with the University of Padova, told the Turin daily La Stampa.

The exam also determined that the whale was carrying a fetus that had died and was in an advance state of decomposition. Experts said the mother whale had been unable to digest calamari due to the huge amount of plastic it had ingested, filling two-thirds of its stomach.

WWF said plastic is one of the greatest threats to marine life and has killed at least five other whales that had ingested large amounts of it over the last two years from Europe to Asia.

Another sperm whale died off the Italian island of Ischia, near Naples, last December with plastic bags and a thick nylon thread in its stomach, but plastic was not the cause of death.

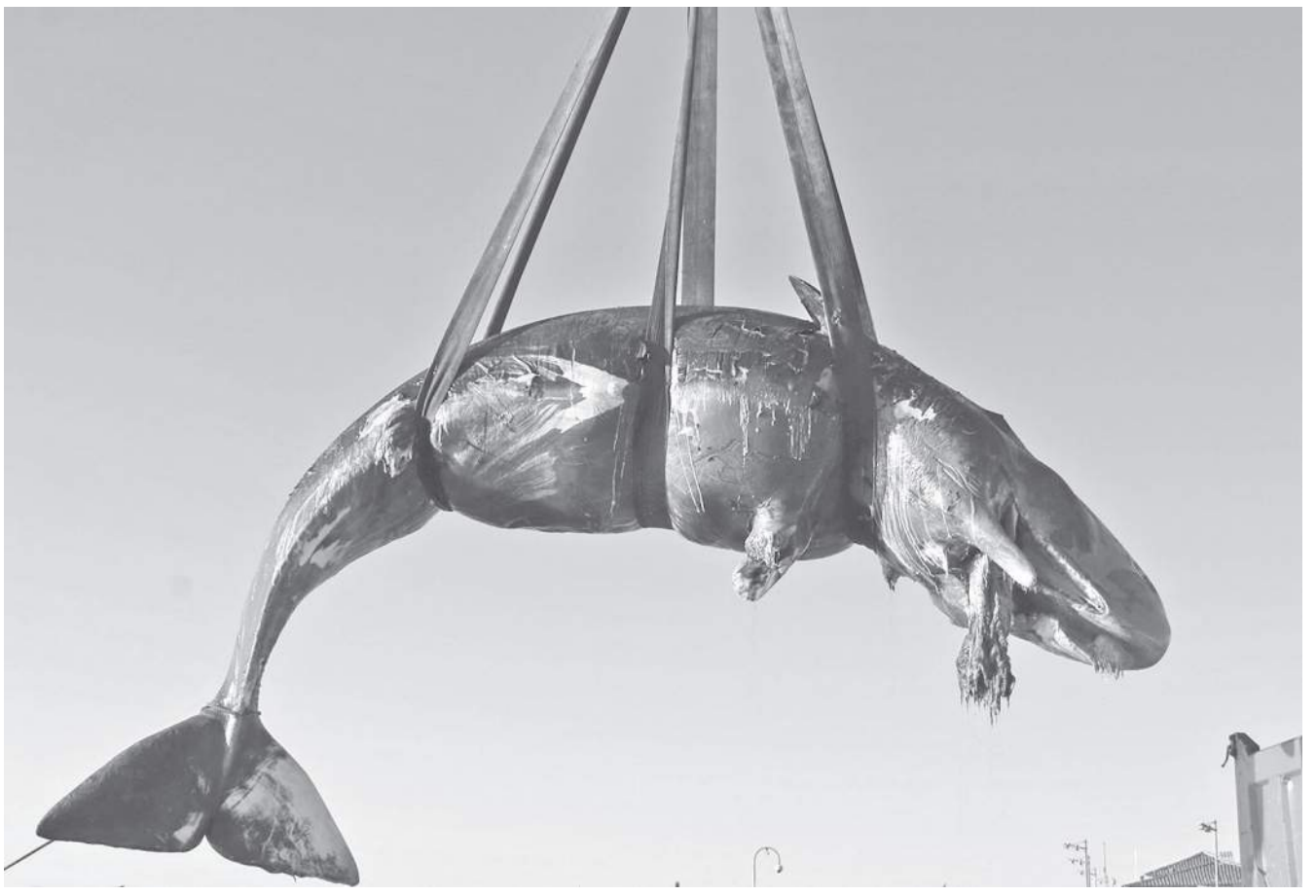
The World Wildlife Foundation said between 150,000 and 500,000 tons of plastic objects and 70,000 to 130,000 tons of micro-plastics wind up in Europe's seas each year.

To combat the phenomenon, the European Parliament last week approved a new law banning a wide range of single-use plastic products, including plates and straws, starting in 2021.

Italy's environment minister, Sergio Costa, lamented the whale's death and said he planned to propose a new law this week to limit the use of plastics.

The law will permit fishermen to bring plastics recovered at sea to land for proper disposal, which they currently are barred from doing. Costa also pledged Italy would be one of the first countries to enact the European single-use plastics ban and appealed to the mayors of Italian cities and coastal towns to adopt the ordinances in advance of the 2021 law.

"We have been using disposable plastics in a carefree way in these years, and now we are paying the price," he said. "The war on disposable plastics has started. And we won't stop here."



AP

In this photo taken on Friday, March 29, 2019 and provided by SEAME Sardinia Onlus, a whale is lifted up onto a truck after being recovered off Sardinia island, Italy.

Venezuelan judge moves to strip opposition leader's immunity

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's chief justice on Monday asked lawmakers to strip opposition leader Juan Guaido of immunity, taking a step toward prosecuting him for alleged crimes as he seeks to oust President Nicolas Maduro.

Supreme Court Justice Maikel Moreno said Guaido should be prosecuted for violating a ban on leaving the country when he went on a tour of Latin American nations that back a change in Venezuela's government. The opposition leader is also accused of inciting violence linked to street protests and receiving illicit funds from abroad.

It's unclear when the pro-Maduro National Constituent Assembly will consider whether to remove Guaido's immunity from prosecution as head of the National Assembly.

Guaido dismissed the Maduro-stacked high court and Constituent Assembly as illegitimate and continued his calls for Maduro to step down.

"We must unite now more than ever," said Guaido at a Caracas university earlier Monday. "We must mount the biggest demonstration so far to reject what's happening."

Venezuelan security forces have detained Guaido's chief of staff, but had yet to move directly against the opposition leader, whose claim to be interim president is backed by dozens of countries that say Maduro's re-election last year was rigged.

Since a massive power failure struck March 7, the nation has experienced near-daily blackouts and a breakdown in critical services such as running water and public transportation. Classes have been suspended for nearly a week.

At the same time, frustrated residents are increasingly unable to find water, make phone calls or access the internet. Millions of Venezuelans struggle to understand an announcement by Maduro a day earlier that the nation's electricity is being rationed to combat daily blackouts.

Maduro said late Sunday that he was instituting a 30-day plan that would balance generation and transmission with consumption. He also called on Venezuelans to stay calm, but provided few details.

Maduro appeared on state TV Monday to announce that an engineer with 25 years of experience, Igor Gaviria, will serve as the next electricity minister, heading the state-run Corpoelec. He's replacing a military general, Luis Motta Dominguez.

"I've lost him to a period of rest," Maduro said, adding that students will return to class Wednesday.

Expressing her confusion, office worker Raquel Mayorca said she didn't know if her lights were off because of another power failure—or whether it was part of the government's plan.

"We are worse off now more than ever," she said, adding that the power was out on one side of the street, but working on the other. "We do not know if the light went out due to a blackout, or whether they took it away because of the rationing."

Maduro blames the blackouts on U.S.-directed sabotage, an allegation that Guaido routinely dismisses as the desperate talk of a government that has presided over the collapse of infrastructure in a country which was once among the wealthiest in Latin America.

As the lack of electricity became the latest sticking point in an ongoing political standoff, many Venezuelans simply found themselves wondering what the newly announced rationing plan would entail.

Mozambique races to contain 1,000 cholera cases

BEIRA, Mozambique (AP)—Mozambican and international health workers raced Monday to contain a cholera outbreak in the cyclone-hit city of Beira and surrounding areas, where the number of cases has jumped to more than 1,000.

One person has died of cholera, while 97 patients remain in treatment centers, with the others released, Mozambique's health director Ussein Isse announced. The new figures are an indication that cholera is spreading but is being brought under control, health workers say.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said there is also a high risk of the spread of infectious diseases including those caused by insects like mosquitoes, with 276 malaria cases also reported in cyclone-affected areas,.

The overall cyclone death toll in Mozambique has risen to 518. With 259 deaths in Zimbabwe and 56 in Malawi, the three-nation death toll from Cyclone Idai now stands at more than 830. Authorities warn the tolls are preliminary as receding flood waters will expose more bodies.

Dujarric said more than 140,000 people in Mozambique are sheltering in 161 sites, including schools and community centers.

He said 11 emergency treatment centers for cholera victims have been established in Beira and other locations and nine are operational.

Mozambican workers have restored clean tap water to parts of Beira, a city of 500,000, although large areas of the urban center still don't have access to sanitary water, David Wightwick, the World Health Organization's team leader in Beira, told The Associated Press while visiting a water treatment center.

"A vaccination campaign against cholera, with 900,000 doses of the vaccine, will start Wednesday," Wightwick said. "That should blunt the edge of this outbreak."

More than two weeks after the cyclone hit Beira and swept across central Mozambique, about 98,000 people are in camps for displaced and "living under canvas," he said.

"Cholera is our most immediate challenge," said Wightwick, who added that getting adequate nutrition to the population and battling other diseases like malaria are also priorities.

In addition to Mozambican medics, health workers from Portugal, Denmark, Italy and China are helping respond to the crisis.

Sanitary water points and latrines are being constructed throughout Beira by the International Federation of the Red Cross, which has also established a field clinic in Macurungo, is constructing a field hospital in Nhamatanda and distributing relief supplies to 800 in Buzi, said the group's spokeswoman, Jana Sweeny.

Cases of cholera, an acute diarrheal disease, have risen dramatically since the first five cases were confirmed last week. Cholera is spread by contaminated water and food. It can kill within hours but is relatively easy to treat.

The U.S. military joined the international humanitarian aid efforts to Mozambique by airlifting food and relief supplies from South Africa.

Round-the-clock flights are delivering supplies from the U.N. World Food Program from King Shaka International Airport in Durban, South Africa, U.S. Embassy spokesman Robert Mearkle said.

Focus

GETTY IMAGES

Detailed and public, **Kim Jong Nam** murder may never be solved

AP

In this June 4, 2010, file photo, Kim Jong Nam, the eldest son of then North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, waves after his first-ever interview with South Korean media in Macau. The murder of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's estranged half-brother at an airport in Malaysia was brazen, intricately orchestrated and, thanks to scores of security cameras, witnessed by millions around the world. The real masterminds behind the killing, however, may never be brought to justice.

By EILEEN NG and ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The murder of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's estranged half brother at an airport in Malaysia was brazen, intricately orchestrated and, thanks to scores of security cameras, witnessed by millions around the world.

The real masterminds behind the killing, however, may never be brought to justice.

The murder charge was dropped against an Indonesian woman, who was freed last month. Her co-defendant, a Vietnamese woman who is the only suspect in custody, pleaded guilty—not to murder, but to the lesser charge of using a deadly weapon to cause injury—and will be freed as early as next month.

Her guilty plea and sentencing on Monday concluded more than two years of legal proceedings. But it cleared up none of the mystery.

Here's a look back at the crime, the missing masterminds and the ending.

THE CRIME

On Feb. 13, 2017, when Kim Jong Nam appeared at a check-in counter at a Kuala Lumpur airport terminal, he was jumped by two women who smeared something on his face. He soon began to feel ill, found his way to a medical station and was taken by ambulance to a hospital. He was dead within a matter of hours.

The women—Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam—were arrested soon afterward.

Huong was seen on security video wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with "LOL" across the chest. The video, and video of the chubby, blue jean-clad victim staggering around before his death, went viral.

From the start, this was obviously no ordinary crime.

Aisyah and Huong were accused of using VX nerve agent, a poison developed for military use, and the victim was the eldest son of the late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, and half brother of current leader Kim Jong Un.

For a time, Kim Jong Nam had been seen, at least by outside experts, as a potential heir to the country's leadership. But he was caught, and humiliated, trying to enter Japan in 1998 to visit Tokyo Disneyland. He ended up in de facto exile, spending most of his time in Macau, a Chinese territory famous for its casinos.

By the time of his death, he wasn't part of the North Korean political scene. But his freedom to reside in Macau indicated he had some Chinese support. It's possible he was seen by some as a viable replacement if Kim Jong Un were ever to be removed from power.

Soon after Kin Jong Nam's murder, his son, Kim Han Sol, appeared in a YouTube video in which he claimed he, his mother and sister were under the protective care of a group calling itself "Cheollima Civil Defense."

The same group is believed to be behind an attack on the North Korean Embassy in Madrid last month in which 10 people allegedly shackled and gagged embassy staff before escaping with computers, hard drives and documents.

THE MISSING MASTERMINDS

Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea of involvement in Kim's death. North Korea has denied any involvement.

But prosecutors made it clear throughout the trial they suspected a North Korean connection.

Four North Korean suspects were seen on airport security video discarding their belongings and changing their clothing after the attack. The North Korean Embassy has also been implicated, with an embassy official helping obtain flights out of Malaysia for the four men, and using the name of one of its citizens to buy a car that took the suspects to the airport.

At Malaysia's request, Interpol issued a "red notice" for the four North Koreans wanted in connection with the killing.

Investigators said the North Korean suspects met the women at the airport and were believed to have provided them with the VX nerve agent used in the murder.

The North Koreans are suspected of scouting and training the women, who say they thought they were taking part in a candid camera-style prank show for television. Malaysian police believe the North Korean suspects flew out of the country the day of the killing and returned to Pyongyang.

Investigations into Kim's death led to a diplomatic spat between Malaysia and North Korea. Malaysia scrapped visa-free entry for North Koreans and expelled North Korean Ambassador Kang Chol after he rejected Malaysia's investigation and insisted the victim was an ordinary citizen who died of a heart attack. Kang Chol also accused Kuala Lumpur of colluding with outside forces to defame North Korea.

North Korea then banned Malaysians in its country from leaving, entrapping three diplomats and six of their family members. The nine Malaysians were only allowed to fly back after Malaysia released Kim's body to North Korea and allowed the North Koreans to leave, including an embassy official and a North Korean Air Koryo employee wanted by police for questioning over Kim's death.

Following last year's summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in Singapore, Malaysia's government has said it may reestablish ties with North Korea and reopen its embassy in Pyongyang.

THE ENDING

With the North Korean suspects missing, the two women were left to face the charges.

After some high-level lobbying by Indonesia's government, the Malaysian attorney general decided to drop the murder case against Aisyah on March 11.

Aisyah, 26, cried and hugged her Vietnamese co-defendant before leaving the courtroom. She was driven away in an Indonesian Embassy car and then flown back to Jakarta, where she thanked the president and other officials for their help.

"I feel happy, very happy that I cannot express in words," she told reporters at Jakarta's airport. "After this I just want to gather with my family."

Huong, 30, also sought to be released after Aisyah was freed, but prosecutors rejected her request.

Both had faced a murder charge that carried the death penalty if they were convicted. Prosecutors on Monday said they were offering Huong a reduced charge, and High Court judge Azmi Ariffin sentenced her to three years and four months from the day she was arrested, telling her she was "very, very lucky" and wishing her "all the best."

Vietnamese officials in the courtroom cheered when the decision was announced.

Her lawyer, Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, said she is expected to be freed by the first week of May, after a one-third reduction in her sentence for good behavior. He said four North Korean suspects still at large were the "real assassins."

As she was being escorted out of the court building, Huong shouted to reporters: "It's very good. I love you." She told reporters earlier that she wants to "sing and act" when she returns to Vietnam.

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING: Let the jealousy begin; you've been out-phloxed again!

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It is happening all across the South right now and probably rates high on the list as one of the saddest moments in the landscape. It is, of course, when gardeners come to that realization that they have been 'Out Phloxed' another year, by their neighbors! If you are in this category, then now is the time to correct the situation by planting your own phlox.

It is the moss phlox or phlox subulata causing all of the consternation, right now, but there will be others. Phlox subulata or Moss Pink represents one of those "60-mile-per-hour plants," which means pretty flowers in the landscape, diverts your attention while you are zipping down the highway.

Large bold plantings of Moss Pink can do that. This is exactly what happened to me passing through Columbus, Mississippi years ago. Yikes, there it was! A bed of Moss Pink giving the perfect example of what I had been preaching. The sermon was that we all need to use this phlox as a groundcover that also yields incredible blooms.

Today it is happening in Old Town in Columbus, Ga., as drivers slowly pass by a picturesque estate with a dazzling show of more moss phlox than most gardeners have ever seen at one time. Many of you probably think it is native to some alpine area in Europe like the alps. It is, however, native to the United States. The latest USDA maps show it native to eastern and central USA, and widely cultivated.

The phlox gets its name from ancient Latin meaning Flame and you certainly have to agree that the Moss Pink brings brilliant color to the late winter or early spring garden. Habit wise it is a low-growing, evergreen plant with a fine, textured leaf. Wonderful on slopes and in rock gardens, it is much more drought- and sun-tolerant than most other phlox.

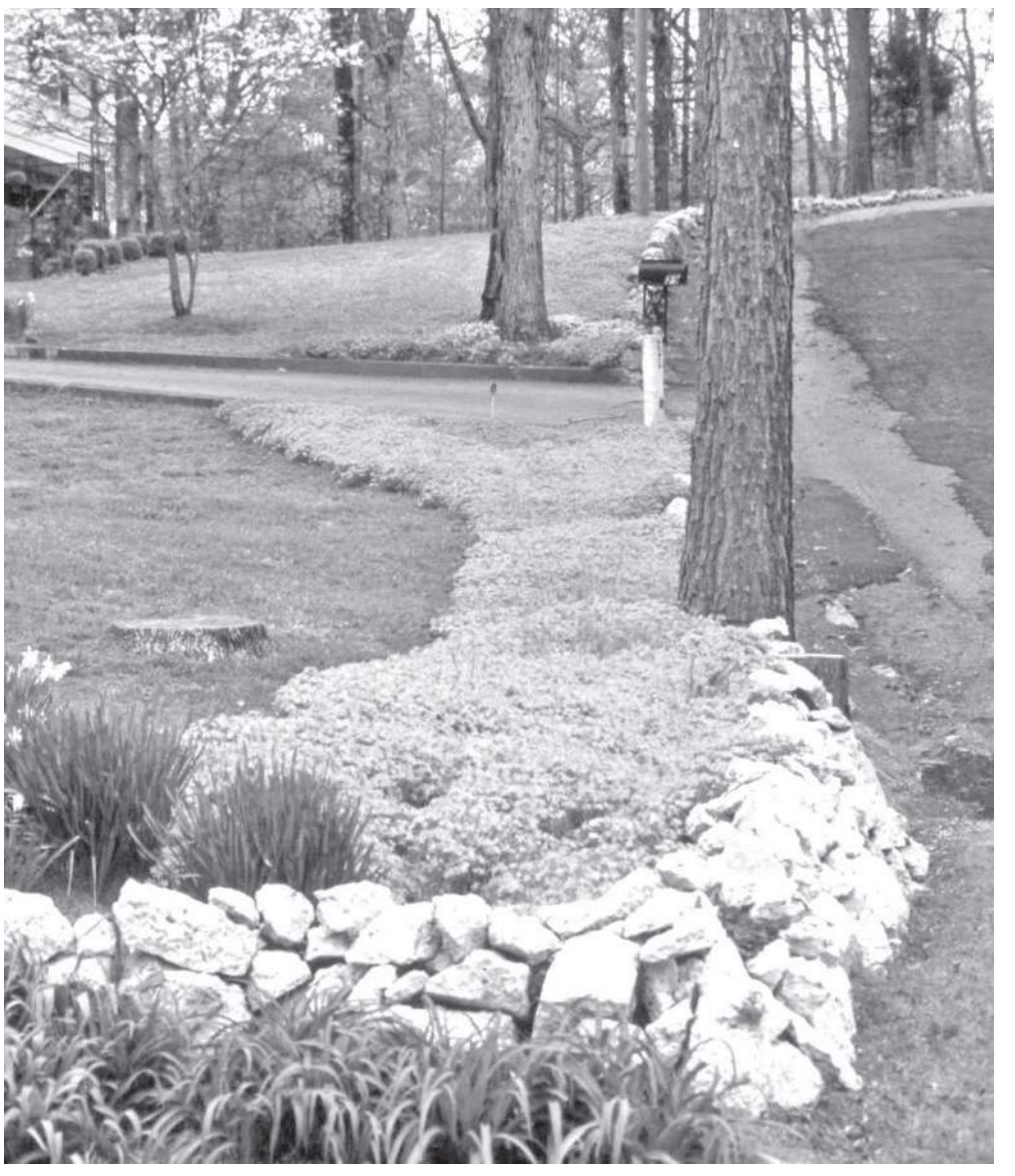
It is easily propagated, that is best done by division, or by cuttings in the fall. Emerald Pink and Emerald Blue are the most popular in the South but occasionally you will find Red Wing, White Delight or Blue Hills.

Next up in the jealousy category is the Prairie Phlox, Phlox pilosa. This one is also called downy phlox and sports a great fragrance. It is still mostly sold generically by native plant nurseries but a couple of named varieties have been seen in recent years. Buy it whenever you see it! It ranges from 12 to 24 inches in height and comes in a variety of colors.

We had a large lavender patch growing in the Rain Garden at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens. It was growing as a companion with lance-leaved coreopsis and created quite the floral partnership. Both plants perennialized and thrived without a lot of love other than pulling out the weed competition. It seemed the long-tailed skippers found these flowers to their liking.

Lastly giving the spring shout out is the Phlox divaricata known as Louisiana Phlox, Wild Sweet William, Woodland Phlox, and Blue Phlox. Though called Louisiana Phlox it is native over a huge area from Alaska to Quebec and Minnesota, southward to Texas and then eastward to Florida. The fragrant blooms come in various shades of blue and last six to eight weeks. They are great for mass planting among drifts of daffodils, in front of azaleas, under dogwoods and in close proximity to Japanese maples.

If you plant these stalwart spring bloomers then add the old-fashioned summer phlox, you'll find phlox blooming, in some areas, for eight to nine months a year t. I promise you won't be Out Phloxed!



TNS

The moss phlox represents one of the best 60-mph plants that catches your attention while drivers pass by.

Tips and gardening chores for April

By JESSICA DAMIANO
NEWSDAY

April is National Garden Month, a designation with roots dating to 1986, when President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation for a national gardening week. In 2002, the National Gardening Association extended the "holiday" to cover the entire month beginning in 2003, and for good reason: April is when the soil begins to warm, seasonal rains quench thirsty seeds, and trees, shrubs and perennials awaken from dormancy. April is a miraculous month—as well as a busy one. Here are 30 tips and chores to help you gain the most from it.

1. Researchers have developed grass that needs no mowing, watering or fertilizer. April Fools!

2. To plant asparagus, till the soil well then dig a trench that's 18 inches wide and deep.

3. Prune roses.

4. Prune rose of Sharon.

5. Deadhead pansies as their flowers fade.

6. Water the lawn only if you've seeded. Otherwise hold off until next month.

7. Plant raspberries and blackberries.

8. Plant potatoes and sweet potatoes.

9. Plant bare-root roses: Mound soil at the bottom of a hole and spread roots over it before backfilling.

10. When forsythia blooms on your side of the block, it's time to apply pre-emergent crab grass control. Corn gluten meal is an organic option.

11. Uncover the fig tree, but only on a cloudy day (to avoid sunburn), then water deeply.

12. Divide bog plants if they are crowded.

13. Plant grapes and install a support.

14. If there's moss in your lawn, apply lime. Otherwise, it's not necessary unless a pH test registers below 6.3.

15. It's Tax Day, a good day to plant perennials. Why not spend your refund at the nursery?

16. One-half cup of Epsom salts scratched into soil around each rose bush now will reward you with more blooms this season.

17. If vegetable seedlings are leggy, pinch off tips. If they are tomatoes, move into a larger pot, burying the bottom third of the stem.

18. Divide fall-blooming perennials.

19. Passover begins at sundown. In the spirit of the holiday, start your parsley seeds indoors.

20. Increase outdoor exposure for broccoli, cauliflower and kale seedlings by one hour daily for a week, then plant outdoors.

21. Happy Easter! Enjoy gift lilies, hyacinths, daffodils and hydrangeas until they fade. Plant them in the garden afterward.

22. In honor of Earth Day, resolve to recycle more by starting a compost pile.

23. Resist the urge to mulch; the soil isn't warm enough yet. Hold off until next month.

24. Repot houseplants into the next-size pot (no more than 2 inches larger) now, especially if planning to move them outdoors for summer.

25. Aerate the lawn.

26. It's Arbor Day in New York (the date varies by state, as it's determined by the ideal local spring planting time for new trees).

27. Prune azaleas as soon as their flowers fade.

28. Whether you have clay soil or sand, compost will improve it. Till a generous helping into prepared beds.

2.9 Deadhead rhododendrons immediately after blooming.

30. Snake soaker hoses through flower and vegetable gardens and around trees. It's the healthiest way to water them.

TNS

It's April, and that means gardening chores.

The Garden Bug
Home-made bug spray
• ½ cup witch hazel
• ½ cup apple cider vinegar
• 40 drops of an essential oil
(eucalyptus, lemongrass, citronella, tea tree or rosemary)
• one 8-ounce glass spray bottle
Mix all ingredients well and pour into the glass spray bottle. Spray directly on any area of your skin EXCEPT eyes and mouth. - Brenda Weaver
Source: draxe.com

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Life & Style

Mourning for Nipsey Hussle goes well beyond his music

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nipsey Hussle thought Marathon Clothing could be a seed to revive the impoverished Los Angeles community where he grew up.

The 33-year-old rapper and his business partner purchased property in the Crenshaw neighborhood, intending to knock it down and erect a six-story residential building atop a commercial plaza, with Marathon as its anchor.

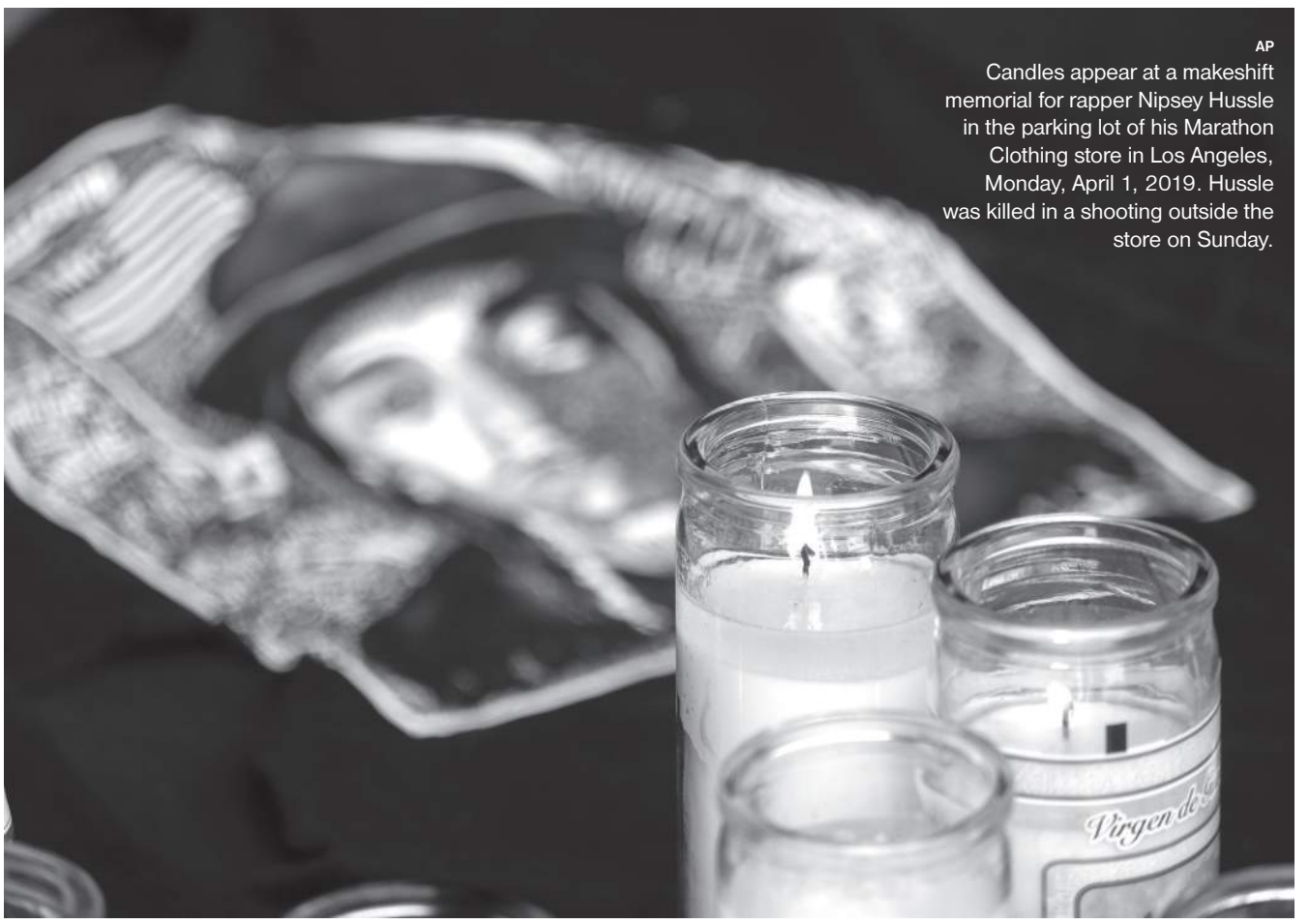
But as Hussle stood in that same plaza Sunday afternoon, he was shot and killed by an unknown assailant. On Monday, the neighborhood he sought to improve mourned him for much more than his music.

Hussle's philanthropic work went well beyond the usual celebrity "giving back" ethos, and political and community leaders were as quick and effusive in their praise as his fellow hip-hop artists.

"Nipsey's activism, leadership and dedication to community was an inspiration for Californians and beyond," tweeted California senator and presidential candidate Kamala Harris. "His senseless death leaves us worse off."

By Monday, hundreds of people formed a circle in front of the closed store to pay their respects. A memorial of candles, flowers and paintings of Hussle took shape in front of the store and in the parking lot. Blaring loudly through several speakers, some of Hussle's popular songs were being played including "The Weather," "Double Up" and "Hussle & Motivate."

Some shed tears. Many mourners pulled out their phones to document the scene. Others yelled, "Long live Nipsey."



AP
Candles appear at a makeshift memorial for rapper Nipsey Hussle in the parking lot of his Marathon Clothing store in Los Angeles, Monday, April 1, 2019. Hussle was killed in a shooting outside the store on Sunday.

Dontae Coleman, 28, who lives in the neighborhood, fell to his knees and cried and called Hussle "a legend."

"Someone changed history yesterday," he said, referring to the gunman.

Coleman commended the rapper for trying to uplift his own community first instead of simply going elsewhere.

"A lot of people who get rich don't come back here," he said. "He's rare. A lot of people like him don't come around often."

Denise Francis Woods, a neighborhood resident who is running for City Council, remembered when Hussle used to sell his demo tapes on street corners in the neighborhood for $5.

"People would tease him," she said. "They didn't think that this would work out and look what happened. He persevered, he stayed in, he never gave up." The effort took him to a whole other level "where he ended up owning property on the same corner."

An autopsy performed Monday found that Hussle's death was a homicide, caused by bullet wounds to the head and torso. Police did not reveal a motive or publicly identify any suspects. Two other men standing near Hussle were shot and wounded.

Los Angeles Police Commissioner Steve Soboroff tweeted that he and Police Chief Michel Moore had agreed to meet with Hussle on Monday to talk about ways to stop gang violence.

Hussle, whose real name was Ermias Asghedom, was an Eritrean-American father of two who was engaged to actress Lauren London.

His hip-hop friends and other stars, including Rihanna and Snoop Dogg, mourned on social media, with many pointing out his particular role in uplifting African Americans.

"I'll remember the beauty that he saw in our community. And the beauty that he was. He loved us," film director Ava Duvernay tweeted. "He's left that love with us. And it cannot die. Rest in Power, King. You mattered."

Born on Aug. 15, 1985, Hussle said his first passion was music but getting resources was tough after leaving his mother's house at 14 to live with his grandmother. He said he got involved in street life as he tried to support himself, and he joined the gang Rollin 60's Neighborhood Crips as a teenager.

"I grew up in gang culture," Hussle told the Los Angeles Times in 2018. "We dealt with death, with murder. It was like living in a war zone, where people die on these blocks and everybody is a little bit immune to it."

Hussle said his stage name, a play on the 1960s and '70s rhyming standup comic Nipsey Russell, was given to him as a teen by an older friend because he was such a go-getter—always hustling.

For a decade, he released much sought-after mixtapes that he sold out of the trunk of his car, helping him create a buzz and gain respect from rap purists and his peers.

He charged $100 for his 2013 mixtape "Crenshaw," scoring a cash and publicity coup when Jay-Z bought 100 copies for $10,000.

Last year he hit new heights with "Victory Lap," his critically acclaimed major-label debut album on Atlantic Records that made several critics' best-of lists. The album debuted at No. 4 on Billboard's 200 albums charts and featured collaborations with Kendrick Lamar and CeeLo Green.

It got him a Grammy nomination, though he lost out to Cardi B's "Invasion of Privacy."

Hussle was also a wildly popular figure among professional athletes, especially those based in LA, where he was a regular on the sidelines. Players admired him for his community building.

"So so SAD man!! DAMN man this hurt," LA Lakers star LeBron James said in one of many emoji-laden tweets about Hussle.

At the LA Clippers game on Sunday night, players Montrezl Harrell and Lou Williams had specially made replica jerseys with "Hussle" on the back hanging in their lockers just a couple of hours after his death, and Hussle's picture was shown on the arena's video screens before tipoff.

Mexican musician appears to kill himself after MeToo claim

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The bass player for the Mexican rock band Botellita de Jerez appeared to have killed himself Monday, just one day after he was accused of sexually harassing a young woman when she was 13.

The Mexico City prosecutors' office said that while it could not confirm musician Armando Vega-Gil had taken his life, a man's body was found at a Mexico City home. The body was to be identified by Vega-Gil's relatives, who went to prosecutors' offices.

The rock band's Twitter account, however, said: "With grief we announce our colleague Armando Vega-Gil died this morning." It said a wake would be held later Monday.

On Sunday, an anonymous woman posted a complaint on Twitter under the hashtag #MeTooMusicosMexicanos, saying Vega-Gil had sexually harassed her when she was 13 and Vega-Gil was 50. The incident would have taken place 14 years ago, since Vega-Gil gave his age as 64 in his farewell letter.

The woman said she visited Vega-Gil's house with some girlfriends, but felt uncomfortable, and that later he sent her disturbing messages. "He said things that were more and more disgusting and sexually explicit. I decided to block him and change my cellphone."

Vega-Gil wrote and performed for children, which he said made the accusation all the more serious.

Vega-Gil denied the accusation around dawn Monday but said that "a terrible end is better than an endless terror." He also published a letter saying he would kill himself "to leave the way clear" for his son.

"The accusation ... is anonymous, and the person who published it on social media has every right to do it that way, but this places in doubt my entire career," Vega-Gil wrote, noting "my death is not an admission of guilt, rather it is a radical declaration of innocence. I just want leave the way clear so my son can make his own way in the future."

The letter immediately unleashed criticism of Mexico's newly energized "MeToo" movement. The group's Twitter account was taken down soon after news of the suicide broke.

"Let this help us remember that the justifiable complaints about harassment, machismo and violence against women should not become an irresponsible persecution," wrote Mexico's national educational publishing agency in a statement.

While the MeToo account was taken down for several hours, it went back up Monday, after what the account's administrator says was a hacking attempt.

Regarding Vega-Gil's death, the account administrators were defiant, claiming they had contacted Vega-Gil Sunday night "to make the appropriate inquiries in the case."

"To any of the accused and unpunished criminals who want to use this painful event to discredit the international #MeToo movement, we want to inform you that, however much you attack us, we will not be silent," they wrote on the Twitter account.

Referring to the suicide, they wrote "It was done to defame the movement ... he knew he was guilty. It was media blackmail."

While the country had a tepid response to the original #MeToo movement in 2017, the United Mexican Journalists group says it has now gathered over 120 allegations of sexual harassment that took place at the country's biggest media outlets. Similar campaigns have sprung up on social media for Mexican writers, academics and activists to share their stories.

Some of those responsible for the #MeToo Twitter feeds in Mexico said they balanced a legitimate need for anonymity—to defend victims' privacy and safety—with the need for fairness. Some Twitter accounts refuse to accept third-party reports of abuse and pledge to remove any accusations proved false, and apologize.

The right of response is always available, they say, on social media. Several male musicians accused on Twitter have written public letters of apology or been released by their bands, while others have denied the claims.

On Monday, #Vega-Gil and #MeTooMusicosMexicanos occupied the top two trending spots on Twitter in Mexico City.

2 major cases add up to big doubts about Chicago prosecutor

CHICAGO (AP)—Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx was elected in 2016 mainly because of anger that the prosecutor she ousted had waited a year to charge a Chicago police officer in the killing of black teenager Laquan McDonald. Then Foxx, who is a survivor of sexual assault as a child, grabbed national attention by charging singer R. Kelly with aggravated sexual abuse.

But in the course of just a few days, her reputation as rising political star and legal crusader was badly tarnished by her office's handling of two celebrity cases involving "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett and Kelly.

The dismissal of all charges against Smollett enraged many, from President Donald Trump to Chicago's mayor and the city's police union. They accuse her of allowing Smollett to walk away from faking a hate crime attack and lying about it to police without so much as an apology or admission of guilt.

And adding to her woes, Kelly's attorney Steve Greenberg on Monday accused Foxx of caving in to pressure from celebrity attorney Michael Avenatti to charge Kelly. Avenatti, who is accused by federal prosecutors in a separate case of trying to shake down shoe company Nike, said he had provided Foxx with a video of Kelly having sex with a 14-year-old girl.

AP

Former mayoral candidate and community activist Ja'Mal Green, right, verbally spars with Fraternal Order of Police supporters protesting against Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx outside the county administration building, Monday, April 1, 2019.

David Erickson, a former state appellate judge who teaches at Chicago-Kent College of Law, said you'd have to go back 50 years to find a Chicago prosecutor so embroiled in controversy. Edward Hanrahan was charged with conspiracy in the deaths of two Black Panther members in a raid by agents from Hanrahan's office in 1969. He was acquitted, but ultimately ousted by voters.

"Looking back, that's the only thing that comes close to this," said Erickson, pointing out that Foxx's troubles may be far from over.

Retired Illinois Appellate Justice Sheila O'Brien vowed on Monday, in an opinion piece posted on the Chicago Tribune's website, to file a petition to the courts asking that a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate Foxx and her office.

"This is exhausting, but it has to be done," O'Brien wrote.

Foxx declined to comment for this article. Her fate was literally debated in the streets of Chicago Monday at dueling protests—one organized by civil rights leader Jesse Jackson in support of Foxx and another by the police union where demonstrators chanted "Foxx must go."

The praise she received for opening up about being raped as a small child, and then taking on R. Kelly—a Chicago native who had beaten a charge of child pornography in 2008—has been drowned out. Her office has been severely criticized by two major legal groups for what they called ethical lapses in the Smollett case.

Kelly's attorney on Monday asked a judge to order all of Foxx's communications with Avenatti preserved and suggested that Foxx fed clients to Avenatti.

"They got in bed with Avenatti and Avenatti is toxic," Kelly attorney Greenberg said in reference to Avenatti's cooperation with Foxx's office in the Kelly investigation.

Even Foxx's decision to recuse herself from the Smollett case is being questioned. Former judge O'Brien said a special prosecutor should answer whether Foxx really stepped back from the Smollett case after she said she was removing herself because of communications with a relative of the actor.

"I can say without any reservation that her reputation has been damaged among people who work in the criminal justice system," said Terry Ekl, a local defense attorney.

How it plays out politically is anyone's guess. Voters may have to wait until next year's primary election to do anything about Foxx.

Dick Simpson, a University of Illinois at Chicago political scientist, said the only way he knows of to remove Foxx from office before an election would be to impeach her.

"But she hasn't done anything impeachable," he said, citing her recusal from the case.

Amid legal troubles, Avenatti scrutinized for R. Kelly role

CHICAGO (AP)—A lawyer defending R. Kelly said Monday that the prosecution's sex-abuse case against the R&B singer had been marred by the involvement of attorney Michael Avenatti, who faces extortion charges in New York and embezzlement charges in California.

The singer's lead attorney, Steve Greenberg, said in comments to reporters and a court filing that Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx relied way too much on Avenatti in deciding in late February to bring charges against Kelly, saying Avenatti's involvement irreparably tainted the case.

There was, Greenberg told reporters after a brief pretrial hearing, "a rush to prosecute because of pressure—all polluted—by Michael Avenatti," who gained national fame by filing an ultimately failed lawsuit against President Donald Trump on behalf of porn star Stormy Daniels.

Greenberg went into detail in a seven-page court filing Monday, saying Avenatti has appeared to take on the mantel of "a de facto prosecutor" in the Kelly case.

"Given the allegations against (Avenatti) one must wonder what he has told those he has interacted with in these matters, and what is true and what is not," the filing says.

Avenatti, who represents two Kelly accusers, has said a video he gave prosecutors in mid-February purporting to show Kelly having sex with a minor was key in Foxx's decision to seek charges, something her office hasn't disputed. Avenatti also met with prosecutors at least twice before indictments accused Kelly of abusing three girls and one woman.

Criticism over Foxx's handling of the Jussie Smollett case also makes her more vulnerable to the kinds of accusations leveled by Kelly's attorney Monday.

Last week, prosecutors dropped all charges against the "Empire" actor that accused him of staging a racist, anti-gay attack. Foxx and her staff offered often contradictory, muddled accounts for their logic behind the sudden dismissal of the case.

A Foxx spokeswoman declined comment on Greenberg's comments. Prosecutors said in a brief filing Monday that Greenberg's "accusations and speculation" were "lacking in factual support."

Avenatti is accused in California of fraudulently obtaining $4 million in bank loans and pocketing $1.6 million that belonged to a client. Federal prosecutors in New York allege that Avenatti tried to shake down Nike for millions of dollars so he wouldn't reveal allegations the apparel company paid off high school basketball players.

Greenberg's Monday filings asks the judge in his case for an order that all communications between Avenatti and the state's attorney's office be preserved as possible evidence of inappropriate coordination and communication leading up to charges. Judge Lawrence Flood said he'd rule on the request later.

Avenatti shot back in a series of tweets later Monday, accusing Greenberg of "trying to distract attention away from the clear guilt of his client by raising bogus arguments about me and Kim Foxx."

"There was never anything improper about our involvement in the case and we are going to continue to press forward," Avenatti said.

Greenberg and Avanetti have hurled insults at each other on Twitter for weeks. After Avenatti's arrest last week on the New York charges, Greenberg offered his legal services in a wry tweet: "I hear he needs a good lawyer."

Just hours after Avenatti's arrest last week, Greenberg also tweeted references to the New York federal complaint in which Avenatti mentions Kelly to Nike executives in a secret recording. He'd go public with damaging information if they didn't pay up, and emails and texts would pour in claiming the sportswear giant of wrongdoing, Avenatti allegedly said.

"It's always (BS) 90 percent of the time, always, whether it's R. Kelly or Trump," Avenatti said, according to the complaint. "But 10 percent of it is actually going to be true, and then what's going to happen is that this is going to snowball."

Avenatti denied any wrongdoing after his release from custody last week, declaring he'd be fully exonerated.

Among the questions that must be answered, Greenberg said in his Monday motion, is whether Avenatti influenced his clients in ways to improve the odds of charges against Kelly. He said the accusations of one accuser—an Avenatti client—was investigated around 2002 and prosecutors decided not to prosecute.

"The case laid dormant till Mr. Avenatti joined in," Greenberg said in his motion. "Then it miraculously was resurrected, although nothing had changed" over more than 15 years.

Greenberg said Avenatti's interest in the Kelly case corresponds with his own legal and professional problems, including his falling out with Daniels.

PJ Morton to help rehab home of jazz legend Buddy Bolden

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—PJ Morton, the keyboard player with Maroon 5, is working to restore the New Orleans home of jazz legend Charles "Buddy" Bolden.

Bolden led a band that was the first to play what became known as jazz music.

His Central City home has been crumbling for years.

WWL-TV reports that Morton founded a nonprofit that will take over the home and plans to turn it into a museum, recording studio and event space.

The properties are currently owned by Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, where Morton's father is the bishop. The church faces steep fines if it doesn't address blight issues at the property.

Morton says part of the delay in rehabbing the property was a lack of knowledge about its historical significance but he's promising "forward movement" now.

Game of Thrones takes over Bellagio fountains in Las Vegas

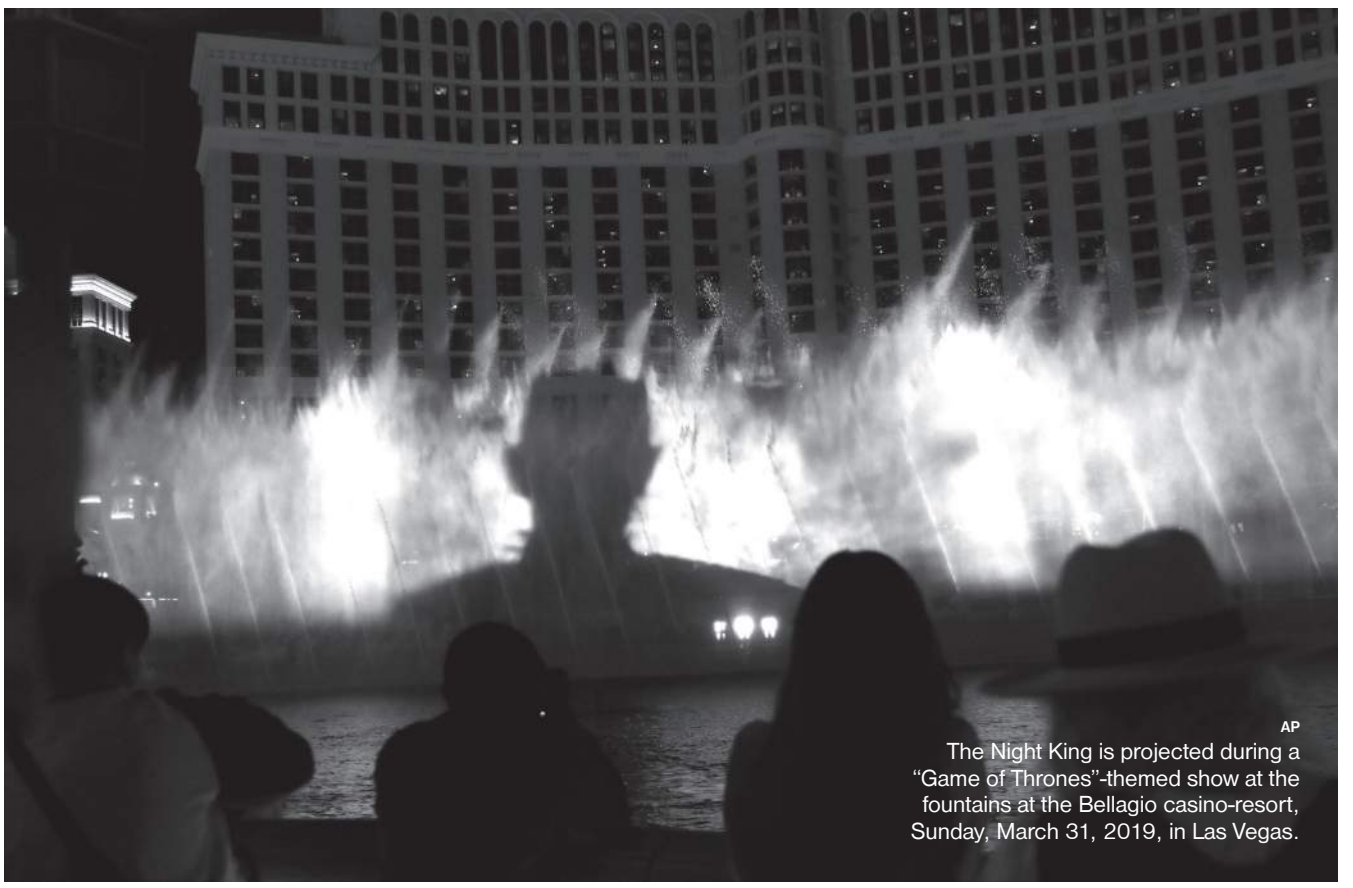
LAS VEGAS (AP)—Winter came to Las Vegas.

Fire-breathing dragons held court over the world-famous fountains at the Bellagio casino-resort Sunday, as familiar elements from the TV phenomenon "Game of Thrones" were projected on the rising water. The jets danced to a score incorporating the recognizable theme song before one of the colossal beasts lit up the lake along the Las Vegas Strip in a blaze of pyrotechnics.

The 3½-minute spectacle that left a crowd of onlookers cheering debuted two weeks ahead of the scheduled premiere of the HBO fantasy series' final season.

The streaming water formed the show's iconic throne and crown. A towering 800-foot-long (244-meter) wall of water emerged from the lake.

The display, however, intentionally did not reveal any elements of the new season.



AP
The Night King is projected during a "Game of Thrones"-themed show at the fountains at the Bellagio casino-resort, Sunday, March 31, 2019, in Las Vegas.

"We didn't just want to portray literally scenes from 'Game of Thrones' here, not like a teaser or a preview of season eight," said Mark Fuller, CEO of WET Design, the company that created the fountains and show. "We want to bring you the emotion."

At the heart of the fountain show is the giant wall of water. It represents the ice wall that defines the TV show, but also serves as a surface onto which the creators project falling snow, the series' logo and the silhouettes of the dragons breathing orange and blue flames.

The company worked with the series' composer Ramin Djawadi to create a special score that along with the dancing water aimed to capture the excitement of the TV hit.

The fountain show begins by dropping musical hints of the TV series, using Djawadi's "Winter is Here" from the seventh season. It comes to full force as the show's recognizable "Main Titles" theme song comes on.

"We have to make sure that the fountain gives the same kind of energy, the same kind of drama, that people are associating this music with," said Peter Kopik, director of design and choreography for WET Design. "(That) was the hard part of the choreography because it's continuously energetic and continuously up and loud and strong, and choreography had to reflect the same thing and not being tiring at the same time."

The spectacle ends as the shadow of the Night King appears one last time, and flames cover part of the roughly 9-acre (3.6-hectare) lake.

Oklahoma resident Josh Elliott stopped by the lake with his wife Sunday as part of their anniversary trip. They were amazed by what they saw.

"We have probably seen a hundred fountain shows, and this is by far the best," he said while waiting for the show to start for a second time. "Oh yeah, we are not moving."

Las Vegas resident Gaile Tiquia is re-watching all seasons ahead of the upcoming premiere. She said she came to the casino-resort after seeing a mention on social media about the special show and wondering if it would include any spoilers.

"I had chills for the entire show," she said. "It's amazing! It's too much."

The "Game of Thrones" fountain show marks the first time the lake has been set ablaze, but artists and others have previously used the fountains for a variety of stunts. Billionaire Richard Branson rode a jet ski on the lake in 2010, and Drake performed one of his hits there during the 2017 Billboard Music Awards.

Cardi B, Meek Mill, Migos to perform at Summer Jam concert

Cardi B

NEW YORK (AP)—Cardi B, Meek Mill and Migos will perform at the annual Summer Jam concert , one of the year's top hip-hop shows.

New York radio station Hot 97 announced Monday that the June 2 concert at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, will also include performances by Tory Lanez, A Boogie wit da Hoodie, City Girls, Davido and Funk Flex.

Tickets go on sale Friday. Rich the Kid, Casanova, Melii, Megan Thee Stallion and Kash Doll will also hit the stage at Summer Jam, which typically includes a number of surprise guest performers.

Summer Jam will also host its Festival Stage for emerging artists, starting at 4 p.m. Eastern. Performers include Trippie Redd, City Girls, Blueface, Melii, Nicole Bus and G4 Boyz.

Rockabilly Hall of Famer Billy Adams dies at 79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Rockabilly Hall of Famer Billy Adams, who wrote and recorded the rockabilly staple "Rock, Pretty Mama," has died. He was 79.

Adams died Saturday in Westmoreland, Tennessee. His funeral was held Monday in Spring Hill, Tennessee, said Clif Doyal, Adams' publicist and manager.

Born in Redbush, Kentucky, Adams was one of 14 children and the son of a coal miner who worked in the Van Lear coal mine, the same place that Loretta Lynn sings about in "Coal Miner's Daughter."

Adams told Public Radio International for a series they did on rockabilly music, that with no money for instruments, he strummed a lard bucket like a guitar and listened to Bill Monroe on the Grand Ole Opry radio program.

Among other songs he recorded in the late '50s include "You Heard Me Knocking," "True Love Will Come Your Way," and "You Gotta Have a Duck Tail."

Adams told PRI he was inspired to write "Rock, Pretty Mama," listening to the sound of trains near his home. It was released in 1957 and was included in multiple compilations of rockabilly songs. He recorded a comeback record at Sun Studios called "Legacy" in 2000.

A 27-track collection of his songs also came out in 2002, which led to him performing at South by Southwest music festival and others. He also wrote and sang gospel music, and one of the songs he penned was "I Saw A Man," a hit for the Happy Goodman Family.

Everything changes after man reveals a secret he has kept

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my 30s working two jobs to make ends meet after a divorce. A few months ago, I met a nice gentleman who has been understanding about my situation and crazy hours, and we have a pretty stable relationship. Feelings have developed, and we're thinking about getting more serious.

He recently disclosed that he's actually very wealthy. He works full time and has a modest lifestyle, so the news caught me off-guard.

I enjoyed his company before the revelation, and I almost wish he hadn't told me. Now that his secret is out, he has been going over the top with gifts and offering to pay for things so I won't have to work a second job. Because I have always worked hard and offered to pay for dates, I have declined his offers, and I feel really awkward about accepting the extravagant gifts he insists on giving me. I think it's making him more attracted to me because I'm not like his past girlfriends who tried to take advantage of his wealth.

This may seem like a happy complaint, but I'm starting to have doubts about this relationship because it seems like we live in completely different worlds. I really like him and want this to work out, regardless of his money. Do you think there's a way to salvage this relationship and turn it back to the way things were?

DON'T WANT THE GLASS SLIPPERS

DEAR DON'T: I sure do. Tell the gentleman exactly what you told me, or show him this column and tell him the letter was written by you. In a successful relationship, honest communication is essential. Now that you know more about his financial situation, things will never be the way they were, but by continuing the conversation, the two of you can navigate through this.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man for three years. When we first met, he bonded very well with my three adult children. They liked him, and he was invited to every occasion.

My ex-husband is gay and is now married to his partner. We have remained friends and have even spent some occasions together. My boyfriend thinks this is totally dysfunctional, so I agreed that we would not spend occasions together anymore.

About a year ago, he started not wanting to participate in any event with my kids. We argued, and he said some nasty things about them. I was appalled. Had he just pretended to like them? He has had nothing to do with them for months.

My son is getting married next week, and when I told my boyfriend I don't think it's right that he come, he flipped out. Why would a man who didn't want anything to do with my kids expect to be welcomed at their wedding? Am I wrong?

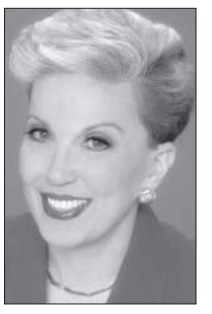
PERPLEXED IN FLORIDA

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your children are not wrong. You are not wrong. The man you have been involved with for three years appears to be determined to isolate you from those to whom you are closest, and it is a big red flag! This isn't a question of right or wrong. It's a question of whether you want to continue a relationship with him and, if so, at what cost.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

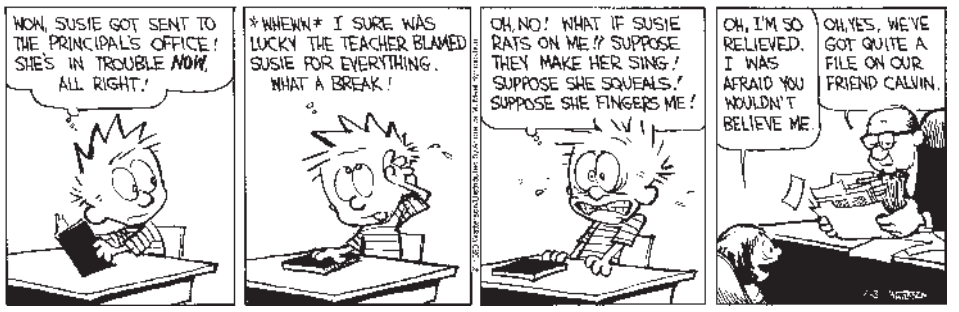


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

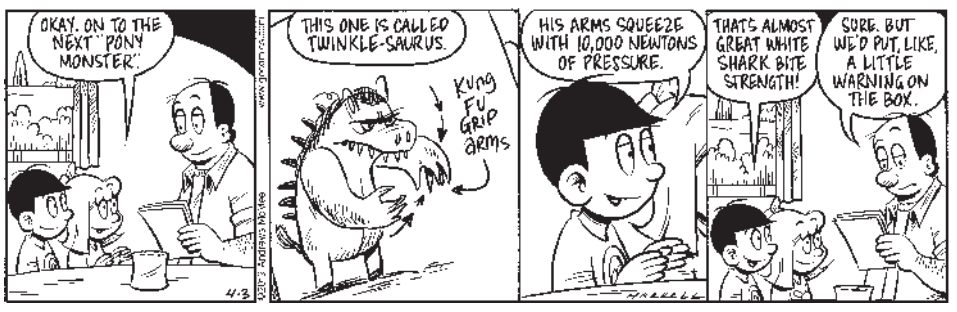

WOW, SUSIE GOT SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE! SHE'S IN TROUBLE NOW, ALL RIGHT!
WHEWW I SURE WAS LUCKY THE TEACHER BLAMED SUSIE FOR EVERYTHING. WHAT A BREAK!
OH, NO! WHAT IF SUSIE RATS ON ME!? SUPPOSE THEY MAKE HER SING! SUPPOSE SHE SQUEALS! SUPPOSE SHE FINGERS ME!
OH, I'M SO RELIEVED. I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME.
OH, YES, WE'VE GOT QUITE A FILE ON OUR FRIEND CALVIN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. ON TO THE NEXT "PONY MONSTER".
THIS ONE IS CALLED TWINKLE-SAURUS.
KUNG FU GRIP ARMS
HIS ARMS SQUEEZE WITH 10,000 NEWTONS OF PRESSURE.
THAT'S ALMOST GREAT WHITE SHARK BITE STRENGTH!
SURE. BUT WE'D PUT, LIKE, A LITTLE WARNING ON THE BOX.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS, YOU MUST THINK OF NOTHING BUT EXERCISE AND EATING — HEALTHY FOODS.
TRAINER
NOW, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE WE BEGIN?
YEAH — WHICH CANDY BAR DO YOU THINK HAS THE MOST CARAMEL NOUGAT?
TRAINER

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 River blocker
4 Locate
8 Cherry type
12 Hearty quaff
13 Notion
14 Manual reader
15 Asian holiday
16 Brando role
18 Glorify
20 Make lace
21 Formerly, once
24 Ballpark winner
28 Child star's parent, maybe
32 Zilch
33 Hosp. sections
34 Continental cash
36 Caustic solution
37 Bulb measure
39 Pop's pop
41 Covert agents
43 Summers in Paris
44 Vichy water
46 Patriot Allen
50 Cub Scout leader
55 Rock's Brian
56 Curved molding
57 Roof overhang
58 Scratch the surface
59 Suitable
60 Roe provider
61 Links org.

DOWN
1 Social appointment
2 "Roots" author Haley
3 Transcending (Pref.)
4 Greek orchard planting
5 Wedding words
6 Homer's neighbor
7 Loony
8 Frosty's nose
9 Somewhat (Suff.)
10 Born abroad?
11 Dog's warning
17 Foot rub response
19 Race segment
22 Overconfident
23 Baseball's Joe
25 Aspic form
26 "May It Be" singer
27 Oboe insert
28 Gives a darn?
29 Snare
30 Wine region
31 Castle defense
35 Showed scorn
38 Overflowed
40 "Spring ahead" hrs.
42 — Paulo, Brazil
45 Western tribe
47 Rope fiber
48 Scrambled wd.
49 Asta's mistress
50 Pooch
51 Swelled head
52 Opposite of paleo-
53 Taunting laugh
54 Actress Mendes

Solution time: 23 mins.

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E	R	G		E	A	M	E	S		O	O	O
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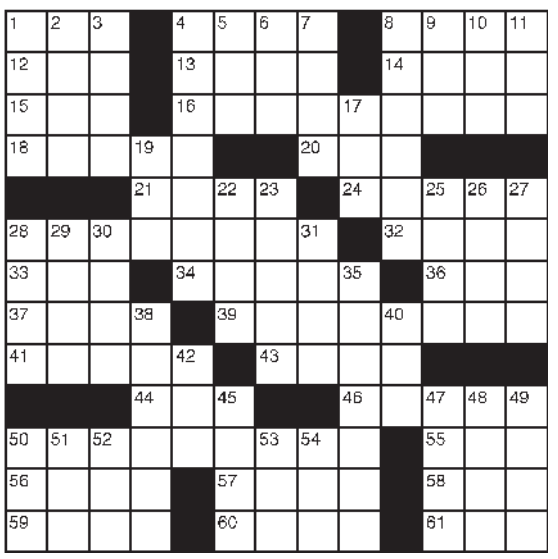
Yesterday's answer 4-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cobie Smulders, 37; Adam Scott, 46; Eddie Murphy, 58; Alec Baldwin, 61.

Happy Birthday: Moderation will help keep your life simple this year. Unclutter your life by getting rid of the things you no longer need. Hone your skills, pay closer attention to what's happening around you and make personal changes that are conducive to helping you achieve your goals. Having more time and greater freedom will prompt you to pursue what makes you happy. Your numbers are 9, 13, 20, 24, 35, 39, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Learn from experience and fine-tune your plans. Initiating positive change will be easier than you think once you get started. Size up your situation, prepare and pursue your goals. Stick to simple plans that are realistic and affordable. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Do what you can to help others. The satisfaction and recognition you receive will encourage you to give back more. Offer your time, knowledge and experience, not your cash. Working with someone you love will bring you closer together. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take the initiative when it comes to hands-on help, but don't go overboard if someone asks for a hefty donation. Put your financial needs first, and disregard anyone who tries to use guilt to make you part with your cash. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Start something exciting. Diversify and discover new ways to use your talents. This is a great day to share with someone you enjoy spending time with. Romance is on the rise, and personal gains can be made. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Differentiate between what's possible and what isn't. Head in the direction that brings the highest returns or the most satisfaction. Don't get hung up on what someone else wants you to do. If you aren't the one benefiting, move on. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Focus on personal and professional partnerships. Bring out the best in those around you, and cozy up to those who do the same for you. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you by asking for too much. Equality brings equivalent opportunities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Stop being so hard on yourself and putting up with people who are critical and demeaning. Stand your ground and take stock of your situation. It's time you spent more time chasing your success instead of helping others get ahead. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Go directly to the source. Business trips, conference calls, galas and networking functions that give you the opportunity to show off your talents will lead to a window of opportunity you won't want to miss. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Question anyone or anything that is suspicious. Gullibility will be what leads to loss. Don't believe everything you hear, and be wary of anyone who is too complimentary. Ulterior motives are present, and caution must be taken. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A change will do you good. Revisit old ideas and goals, and reconnect with people you used to enjoy spending time with. An unusual offer to do something you've always wanted to do will give you something to think about. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make positive changes. You'll feel better if you get rid of things you no longer use or need. Clearing space will encourage you to start a new project. Don't let anger lead to misfortune. If something irks you, walk away. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Weed out any negativity in your life. Get rid of things you don't need. The less clutter, the easier it will be to reach your goals. Making a donation of items you don't use will make you feel good. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are excessive, passionate and imaginative. You are proud and determined.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	6	9	4	7	3	1
1							5
		4	5	3	1	8	
	4						8
6					2		7
9				5		1		3
8					3			5
	6						7	
		2	7	6	4	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	9	2	4	8	1	3	7	6
1	7	8	2	6	3	9	4	5
4	3	6	7	9	5	2	1	8
9	4	1	5	2	7	6	8	3
8	6	7	9	3	4	5	2	1
2	5	3	6	1	8	7	9	4
7	8	9	3	4	6	1	5	2
6	1	5	8	7	2	4	3	9
3	2	4	1	5	9	8	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SUPER DAVE OSBORNE (1942-2019) Solution: 15 letters

N	N	E	D	L	A	W	E	L	O	H	M	Y	A	S
I	A	M	T	N	E	P	A	C	S	E	E	R	B	E
E	H	M	I	I	J	U	F	T	R	L	Y	L	P	A
T	T	R	T	K	H	R	B	R	L	M	U	I	W	T
S	E	O	Z	N	E	W	A	O	D	E	R	R	F	B
N	L	A	T	T	U	Z	W	E	D	T	Y	O	U	E
I	A	T	I	I	I	T	R	R	S	Y	N	L	L	L
E	M	R	H	Ⓑ	Y	U	S	O	O	A	K	O	E	T
K	W	E	Ⓞ	U	J	A	N	H	M	N	R	C	T	H
Y	F	Ⓑ	N	N	M	S	K	L	O	E	G	G	T	E
D	F	O	I	A	C	B	E	A	S	D	O	N	E	M
N	I	R	K	R	C	H	S	O	H	G	I	I	R	E
A	L	B	E	R	T	T	R	U	O	U	S	V	M	V
V	C	E	N	I	L	T	O	L	P	E	R	I	A	A
U	N	I	F	O	R	M	S	R	A	T	S	L	N	D

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Actor, Albert, Awry, Bizarre, Blue, Bob, Body, Cliff, Dave, David, Einstein, Erin, Escape, Ethan, Fuji, Hakayito, Helmet, Hole, Injured, Letterman, Living Color, Logo, Male, Mike, Nike, Onscreen, Plotline, Resort, Roberta, Seat Belt, Stars, Stripe, Stuntman, Thelma, Theme, Thumbs Up, Uniform, Van Dyke, Walden, White, Writer, Wrong, Yellow, Zoe

Yesterday's Answer: Eye Drops

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Find today's solution in classified section

Yankees win, lose Stanton and Andujar to injuries

NEW YORK (AP)—Domingo German overcame control problems on a chilly night to win for the first time since last June, Gary Sanchez and Brett Gardner homered and the banged-up New York Yankees beat the punchless Detroit Tigers 3-1 Monday.

Aaron Judge made a sprawling, backhand catch on Niko Goodrum's hard-hit liner after Adam Ottavino walked the first two batters in the eighth inning, a drive that would have tied the score if it had gotten by the right fielder.

New York lost two more regulars to the 10-day injured list before the game after they got hurt a day earlier, outfielder Giancarlo Stanton with a strained left biceps and third baseman Miguel Andujar with a small labrum tear in his right shoulder.

Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Andujar, runner-up for AL Rookie of the Year last season, will be treated conservatively with a rehab program and there is some optimism he will respond well. But if not, he could need seasno-surgery.

They joined a group of sidelined Yankees that includes pitchers Luis Severino, Dellin Betances and Jordan Montgomery, shortstop Didi Gregorius and outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury; pitcher CC Sabathia is set to join them Wednesday, after he completes a suspension for hitting a batter with a pitch last September.

German (1-0) pitched five scoreless innings, striking out seven and walking five. Aroldis Chapman got his first save.

AP

New York Yankees' Luke Voit beats the throw home to Detroit Tigers catcher Grayson Greiner to score on a hit to left field and a fielding error by Detroit Tigers left fielder Christin Stewart during the third inningof a baseball game, Monday, April 1, 2019, in New York.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, David Hess was pulled after 6 1/3 hitless innings, but Baltimore's bullpen couldn't see the bid through in a win over Toronto.

Hess struck out eight and walked one before first-year manager Brandon Hyde pulled him after 82 pitches. Reliever Pedro Araujo walked Justin Smoak, and then allowed a two-run homer to Randal Grichuk for Toronto's first hit.

Jonathan Villar and Trey Mancini homered for Baltimore, which won its third straight, including the last two of its season-opening series against the New York Yankees. Left-hander Richard Bleier picked up his first save of the season.

It was the second time this season the Blue Jays have been no-hit into the seventh inning. Detroit right-hander Jordan Zimmermann retired 20 Toronto batters on opening day before Teoscar Hernandez singled to end his perfect game.

Mets 7, Marlins 3

In Miami, rookie slugger Pete Alonso hit his first major league homer, a three-run shot to cap a four-run ninth inning, and New York overcame 16 strikeouts by its hitters to rally past Miami.

Juan Lagares hit his first homer since Sept. 7, 2017 and sparked the ninth-inning rally when he was hit by a two-strike pitch trying to bunt.

Mets starter Steven Matz allowed three runs, one earned, in 5 1/3 innings. Three relievers blanked Miami over the final 3 2/3 innings, and Jeurys Familia (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth.

The Marlins loaded the bases with none out in the ninth against closer Edwin Diaz, who struck out the next three batters.

Brewers 4, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Christian Yelich failed to homer for the first time this season, ending his record-tying streak, but he doubled in the ninth and scored on Ryan Braun's double as Milwaukee rallied for a victory before the smallest crowd in Great American Ball Park history.

Yelich had homered in each of Milwaukee's first four games, tying the major league record shared by Willie Mays (1971), Mark McGwire (1998), Nelson Cruz (2011), Chris Davis (2013) and Trevor Story (2016). On Monday, his only hit set up the Brewers' fourth win in five games.

Astros 2, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Brad Peacock allowed two hits while pitching into the seventh inning, Robinson Chirinos looped a go-ahead double in his first game against his former team and Houston beat Texas.

Houston's George Springer connected for his 25th career leadoff homer against Drew Smyly, who was making his first major league start since the end of the 2016 season.

Peacock (1-0) pitched without a baserunner through six innings, allowing only Ronald Guzman's first homer leading off the third. Rougned Odor reached on an infield single to start the seventh, but was thrown out trying to steal by Chirinos. Peacock struck out five in 6 2/3 innings.

Braves 8, Cubs 0

In Atlanta, Brian McCann made the most of his Atlanta homecoming by hitting a two-run single in a four-run first inning, and the Braves took advantage of six Chicago errors.

After being swept in their first series at Philadelphia, the Braves became the final major league team to win a game. Ender Inciarte and Ronald Acuña Jr. homered off Kyle Hendricks (0-1).

Cardinals 6, Pirates 5, 11 innings

In Pittsburgh, Paul DeJong scored on a passed ball in the top of the 11th inning as St. Louis rallied and spoiled the Pirates' home opener.

The Cardinals came back twice against Pittsburgh's erratic bullpen, tying it in the eighth and again in the ninth.

DeJong put St. Louis in front for the first time when he singled off Steven Brault (0-1) with two outs in the 11th, moved to third after a hit by pitch and a walk and then raced home when Nick Kingham's fastball squirted past Pirates catcher Francisco Cervelli.

Indians 5, White Sox 3

In Cleveland, Roberto Perez drew a bases-loaded walk on four pitches from Dylan Covey in the eighth inning as Cleveland rallied for a chilly win in its home opener.

The Indians scored four runs in the eighth after nearly wasting starter Mike Clevinger's dominant performance. Clevinger allowed one hit in seven innings, striking out 12.

After the dreadful outing by Covey (0-1), Caleb Frare came in and walked pinch-hitter Greg Allen on five pitches to force in another run and give the Indians a 5-3 lead.

Rays 7, Rockies 1

In St. Petersburg, Brandon Lowe and Kevin Kiermaier homered to back a strong performance by Tampa Bay's bullpen.

Employing the opener strategy for the first time this season, the Rays won for the fourth straight time since a season-opening loss to Houston—matching the best five-game start in franchise history.

Opener Ryne Stanek got it started before a crowd of 10,860, with Ryan Yarbrough (1-0) following and allowing one run and three hits over 4 2/3 innings. Relievers Wilmer Font, Jalen Beeks, Jose Alvarado and Diego Castillo finished up.

Beckham calls trade to Browns surreal and a blessing

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Odell Beckham Jr. looked at quarterback Baker Mayfield seated to his left, Jarvis Landry to his right and Myles Garrett at the end of the dais.

"This can't be real," Beckham said, a tuft of bleached blond hair poking out from under his orange cap.

This was no April Fools' Day joke.

Welcome to Cleveland, the NFL's new hotspot.

His drama-filled days in New York behind him, Beckham was introduced Monday by the Browns, whose acquisition of the former Giants star wide receiver has triggered wild expectations for a team that didn't win one game two years ago.

Beckham said he was initially shocked by the blockbuster trade—Cleveland sent guard Kevin Zeitler, safety Jabrill Peppers and a first- and third-round pick this year to New York on March 12 for Beckham and edge rusher Olivier Vernon—but he has grown to embrace it over the past few weeks.

"I think I've come to grips with everything," Beckham said, discussing his big change in an overflowing media room at the team's headquarters. "It'll be one of the best things that ever happened to me in my life."

His close relationship with Landry has helped Beckham's transition. The pair has been friends since meeting at a football camp while in high school, and after attending LSU together, the two have talked endlessly about being teammates in the NFL.

Their dream is a reality in Cleveland.

"We spoke this into existence," Beckham said. "Him and I dreamed of this. This is something that we talked about at 17, 'I'm going to live right down the street from you. We're going to be on the same team.' Everything, and it's like surreal."

Beckham, who spent five sometimes turbulent seasons with the Giants, said it was important for him to report right away to the Browns' first offseason conditioning program under new coach Freddie Kitchens. His life is still in upheaval due to the trade, but he wanted to get off on the right foot with his new teammates.

"I definitely want to be here and create that bond," he said. "I definitely wanted to be here today."

Moments later, he again gazed at his new teammates—Landry, the sure-handed pass catcher who joined the Browns last year and Mayfield and Garrett, two former No. 1 overall picks who have made the Browns relevant—and smiled.

"I think this moment is going to be more iconic than we all realize," he said.

In Landry and Beckham, the Browns have two of the league's top receivers, a combination that might keep defensive coordinators awake at night.

Celtics spoil Wade's final Garden visit

AP
Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving (11) reaches in on a steal-attempt against Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday, April 1, 2019.

BOSTON (AP)— The Celtics showed Dwyane Wade plenty of appreciation in his final regular-season visit to TD Garden.

They also made sure his memories of that visit included a loss.

Kyrie Irving had 25 points, including a pair of key late free throws, and Boston held off the Miami Heat 110-105 on Monday night

Al Horford added 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for the Celtics (46-32), who are trying to beat out the Indiana Pacers for the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference standings.

"We'll see when we get there," Irving said of how the Celtics are trending with the playoffs two weeks away. "I'm pretty sure I think we know who we're going to play, but we'll see how it pans out."

Goran Dragic led the Heat with 30 points. Bam Adebayo added 19 points and 14 rebounds. Wade finished with 17 points and seven assists.

Miami (38-39) maintained its half-game lead over Orlando for the final playoff spot in the East after the Magic's 121-109 loss to Toronto.

Two nights after Wade received a warm welcome in Madison Square Garden and picked up a victory in his final game against the New York Knicks, Boston gave him a similar greeting at TD Garden on Monday.

Before the game, Celtics president of basketball operations Danny Ainge presented Wade with a plaque in commemoration of his career accomplishments.

Later, he received a loud ovation from Boston fans when he subbed into the game in the first quarter.

"We've had so many battles in the playoffs, but appreciate the respect they've shown me as a player to give me the plaque and send me away with a piece of the history of the Celtics," Wade said. That was so cool, and I didn't expect it at all."

Bucks 131, Nets 121

In New York, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 11 rebounds in his return to the lineup, Eric Bledsoe added 29 points and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Brooklyn Nets.

Reserve guard George Hill chipped in 22 points while Brook Lopez and Sterling Brown each scored 14 for the Bucks, who played without All-Star forward Khris Middleton because of soreness in his left groin.

Milwaukee was unable to clinch the best record in the Eastern Conference because Toronto won earlier Monday.

D'Angelo Russell had 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, who remained seventh in the East after losses by Detroit and Miami.

Raptors 121, Magic 109

In Toronto, Danny Green scored a season-high 29 points, Kawhi Leonard and Serge Ibaka each had 15 and the Raptors clinched their sixth Atlantic Division title by beating Orlando.

The win also means Toronto can finish no lower than second in the Eastern Conference. The Raptors began the day three games behind Milwaukee for first.

Marc Gasol scored 13 points and Kyle Lowry had 12 as the Raptors snapped a two-game losing streak against the Magic.

Nikola Vucevic had 13 points and 13 rebounds, but the Magic lost for the second time in three games after winning their previous six. Evan Fournier scored 21 points. Orlando remained a half-game behind Miami for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East

Pacers 111, Pistons 102

In Indianapolis, Thaddeus Young scored 19 points and Domantas Sabonis added 18 points and 12 rebounds to help Indiana snap a three-game losing streak with a victory over Detroit.

It was a crucial win for the Pacers, who had lost seven of their previous eight and their grip on potentially having home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Myles Turner chipped in with 17 points and five blocks.

Wayne Ellington scored a season-high 26 points and Andre Drummond had 18 points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons. Detroit is in the No. 6 spot with a 1 1/2-game lead over Orlando for the final playoff spot in the East.

Jazz 111, Hornets 102

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 23 points, Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 18 rebounds, and surging Utah overcame Kemba Walker's 47 points to beat Charlotte.

Gobert, who is second in the league with 62 double-doubles, controlled the paint as the Jazz built enough of a lead to withstand Walker, who scored 22 points in the fourth quarter.

Ricky Rubio added 20 points and 13 assists for the Jazz, who have won 10 of 11 and are two games back of Houston and Portland for the third and fourth slots in the Western Conference playoffs.

Trail Blazers 132, Timberwolves 122

In Minneapolis, Evan Turner had 13 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists off the bench, and Portland moved into a tie for third place in the Western Conference with a victory over Minnesota.

Rodney Hood led Portland with 21 points. Enes Kanter added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Blazers, who joined the idle Houston Rockets at 49-28.

Andrew Wiggins had 21 points for Minnesota, while Gorgui Dieng scored 18 on 7-of-8 shooting.

Mavericks 122, 76ers 102

In Dallas, Justin Jackson scored 16 of his 24 points in the third quarter and the Mavericks took advantage of a short-handed Philadelphia.

Philadelphia went more than 10 minutes without a field goal spanning the second and third quarters. Dallas took advantage to build a 20-point lead early in the third and protected it from there.

Jackson, acquired on Feb. 6 from Sacramento, had his highest point total with Dallas. He led a balanced Mavericks effort as leading scorer Luka Doncic sat out his second straight game with a thigh contusion.

Knicks 113, Bulls 105

In New York, Luke Kornet scored a career-high 24 points and the Knicks snapped a six-game losing streak.

Kevin Knox added 19 points, Damyean Dotson had 18 and Emmanuel Mudiay scored 17 for New York.

Robin Lopez led the Bulls with a season-high 29 points. JaKarr Sampson scored 22 and fellow reserve Ryan Arcidiacono had 14.

Suns 122, Cavaliers 113

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 25 points after two 50-point games and a 48-point night over the past three, and that was enough to lead the Suns over Cleveland.

Booker sat more than eight minutes of the second quarter but had 13 assists. Josh Jackson had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Jamal Crawford added 19 points for the Suns.

The Suns ended a six-game losing streak while the Cavaliers lost their sixth straight. The teams have the NBA's second and third-worst records: Phoenix at 18-60 and Cleveland at 19-59. Collin Sexton scored 21 points and Jordan Clarkson added 20 for the Cavs. They Cavs played without Kevin Love, who missed his second straight game with left shoulder soreness.

Opinion: Zion turns into NBA star after Duke loss

On Sunday night the clock hit zeroes, Duke's championship dream evaporated, and a few million more brackets were set ablaze.

Within moments of the buzzer sounding and as Michigan State celebrated wildly, Adam Silver emerged from the tunnel, strode onto the court, enveloped Zion Williamson in a big hug, grinned, and whispered, "You're ours now."

OK, the NBA commissioner didn't do that of course, but he might as well have. Because in that moment, Williamson essentially became the property of the NBA universe and its global fanbase, a player to be cherished and lauded and scrutinized and debated.

Forget about the formalities, Williamson is now an NBA player, and one of the most famous ones on the planet. There is no drama, no maybes, no wait-and-see moments to be had over the next couple of months.

There won't be any draft night shocks. He will suit up for whichever team gets lucky in the lottery, and he will do so as the biggest no-brainer first pick since LeBron James leaped from high school, back when that was a thing.

Williamson comes in with a greater level of focus and intrigue than anyone since James, who arrived in the NBA boasting a Sports Illustrated cover while barely old enough to drive. Williamson drops in with 2.8 million Twitter followers. That's a lot of people wondering how you're going to fare.

There is still a process to go through, but it is just that—process. Williamson couldn't just walk off the court at Capital One Arena and find a suitcase full of cash ready for him in the locker room, but he won't have to wait long for it and he's set for life already. He still loves his college teammates, but he isn't part of their world anymore, not even the same world as Cam Reddish and R.J. Barrett, who will join him on draft night and hear their names called shortly after his.

The Zion-sphere, as big and all-encompassing as it is, is carved to fit just one personality, and it is his alone. Williamson will get a monumental shoe deal. He'll be referred to predominantly by his first name only, a marker of both extreme fame and —let's be honest—having a slightly unique moniker. Leave off LeBron James' or Serena Williams' last names and everyone still knows who you are talking about. Tom Brady, for all his Super Bowl jewelry, not so much.

Williamson will be courted by all and sundry, from agents to endorsers to talk show hosts. TMZ will try to chat to him at an airport somewhere. He'll get name-dropped in lyrics by recording artists.

The fans' thirst for information about him won't be sated, anything from his love life to who he's hanging out with will all be up for grabs. He's a level-headed kid by all accounts, one who has been schooled well this past year by Mike Krzyzewski at Duke. He'll take it in stride.

The only unknown is what will happen when he actually takes to the court, and if you don't count Summer League we will have to wait until October to see that. Whatever level of greatness he attains will be determined by performances churned out night after night, year after year.

That's the same for everyone, but what makes Williamson different is that he has become an NBA star before he even plays an NBA minute. He has a lot to live up to, but if he's even half as good as the hype suggests, he has a lot to accomplish. The clock just started again.

Olympic/San Juan rules Mahi Derby

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Olympic/San Juan bested 29 other boats to rule the 15th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby last Saturday.

The crew of Olympic/San Juan caught a mahi that weighed 18.7lbs, which was a little over five pounds lighter than last year's winner *K-Fisher* of captain Tak Nakazato. *Olympic/San Juan* won the $1,000 top prize that also included a $500 gift certificate from Fishing Tackle.

Trophy/10-7 came in at second place again with a catch that weighed 18.3 lbs to settle for the $500 cash prize and $200 Fishing Tackle gift certificate. The same crew caught a 21.25-lb mahi last year. *Pastime III* was third with a mahi that tipped the scales at 18.2 lbs and it brought home $400 cash and the $100 gift certificate from Fishing Tackle.

JON PEREZ
Olympic/San Juan anglers pose with Saipan Fishing Association president Gene Weaver, right, and Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero after winning the 15th Mahi Mahi Fishing Derby last Saturday at the Smiling Cover Marina.

Victoria, captained by former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, returned to the Smiling Cove Marina dock just in time for the 5pm cut-off, but came in tied for fourth place with *K-Fisher II*. Both caught a 17.8-lb mahi.

A side bet for the heaviest wahoo was also held with 28 of the 30 boats joining at $50 each for a total prize money of $1,400. There was only one winner for the side bet—*M/V Gloria II*. After missing the win for the heaviest mahi with its 15.4-lb catch, *M/V Gloria II* won the side bet after reeling in a monster wahoo that weighed 39.5lbs.

Pastime III was at far second at 18.3 lbs while *Gready White* came in third at 18.1 lbs. *Le'ana Vae* (18.0), *Zeppelin II* (16.1), *K-Fisher* (15.8), *Carmelita II* (15.3), *Olympic/San Juan* (14.3), and *Villa Marie* (12.7) were the other boats that joined the Wahoo side bet.

Meanwhile, the organizing Saipan Fishing Association, in cooperation with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, gave Joey Cruz, George Moses, and Randy Sablan $100 each (Joeten gift certificates) as they were named marine debris winners.

SFA president Gene Weaver thanked MINA, represented by Daniel Kaipat and Kaiza Lucido, for partnering with them with the project.

"This is SFA's little way of cleaning up our ocean, which goes in with MINA's mission. For their [Cruz, Moses, Sablan] efforts in cleaning up our waters, we congratulate them in removing as many man-made debris floating in our waters," Weaver said.

After the Mahi Derby, up next for SFA is the Saipan International Fishing Derby in July where anglers from nearby islands also compete.

All Schools track meet qualifiers continue

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics held qualifiers for 10 more events in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The qualifiers are for middle and high school divisions in the U13, U15, and U18 age groups. Students from Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, Agape Christian School, Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Dandan Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, Mt. Carmel School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School joined the qualifiers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Students compete in the 1,500m qualifying race for the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Students raced in the 100m and 300m hurdles, 100m, 1,500m, 400m, 200m, 3,00m, 4x100m relay, and 4x400m relay events.

Meanwhile, NMA was on Tinian last Thursday for the island's qualifier. Tinian is given two slots in the sprints and middle distance races and throwing and jumping events with the winners in the qualifiers joining Saipan and Rota students in the championship.

The final round will be held on May 3 and 4 for the elementary division (U7, U9, and U11 age groups) and May 10 and 11 for middle and high school categories.

Rota will have its qualifier this Thursday, while Saipan will resume its trials next week.

FALCONS

From Page 28

The Falcons hung on to the one-run lead after six complete innings, as their defense forced the Blue Jays to 1-2-3 at the top. Then at the top of the last inning, with two outs and runners on first and second base, Yaguel caught a fly ball from Lang Camacho at centerfield to end the finals in favor of the top-ranked Falcons.

Before the Falcons mounted a comeback, the Blue Jays boosted their bid for an upset after starting the finale with seven runs at the top of the first inning and added four more in the fourth to take control of the game. Camacho hit a grand slam in the first inning, while Trevon Lieto fired off a homer that sent two of his teammates home in the third to give the Falcons a scare.

However, the Blue Jays' efforts went for naught, as the Falcons got their acts together in the fifth inning and delivered at crunch time.

"It was a really great feeling [to win the championship], especially coming back from a 7-point deficit with 2 innings left," Falcons captain Aven Evangelista said. "I'm very proud of my teammates for not giving up, and we just continued to play our game. I just had to do my part, and I know my teammates had my back. Overall it was just [good] teamwork and that's how we won the championship."

Since several of the Falcons players have been playing in softball and baseball leagues since childhood, they knew they are capable of digging themselves out of a big hole.

"We've been playing together as a team ever since we were little," Evangelista said. "We have so much chemistry together, so it was nothing new to us. All we had to do to win the championship was play hard and have fun!"

Norita echoed Evangelista's sentiments, saying that their relationship goes deeper than being mere teammates.

"I feel so good to be a part of the Falcons. They have always been my team. The Falcons are my family," Norita said.

"I would like to thank my manager throughout the years, Manny Evangelista, and to my teammate Aven Evangelista for being a good captain for the team. I'd also like to thank all the fans that came out to support us," he added.

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dropped to second spot in the team standings.

Keisha Deleon Guerrero delivered all four goals for Southern United, making her first in the 13th minute and the last three in the 30th, 55th, and 75th.

In other results, TanHoldings got victory No. 2 out of five matches after downing the winless Paire, 4-1.

Stephanie Flores scored a pair for TanHoldings, while Kaithlyn Chavez and Maria Joy Aniana added one each. Erin Frink hit the lone goal for Paire. Chavez opened the scoring for TanHoldings with her shot in the ninth minute, while Aniana hit the board two minutes later. Frink moved Paire within one with her conversion in the 15th minute, but Flores gave TanHoldings more cushion after finding her target in the 32nd minute. Flores eventually closed out for her team after getting her second goal in the 39th minute, while Paire failed to counter.

Meanwhile, the MP United and Matansa game last weekend ended in a scoreless draw, keeping the opposing squads at the bottom half of the team standings.

GIRLS U19 DIVISION
Kanoa 12, Southern United 1

Kanoa remained on top of the division after another lopsided victory over Southern United last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kanoa hardly missed two of its starters (competing in the same Hong Kong tournament) in the weekend match, as Paulynn Joyce was there to lead the team's offense for their fourth win in as many games. Joyce scored six goals, earning a hat trick early in the first half. Ruschell Valino also had a hat trick—one goal in the first half and two in the final—while Sue Anne Huevos chipped in two, and Princess Alcantara made one.

TanHoldings 2, Matansa 0

In the other futsal game, TanHoldings blanked Matansa.

Aniana nailed the pair of goals for TanHoldings, drilling her first in the 22nd minute and the second in the 47th. TanHoldings got its first victory in four games, while Matansa has yet to win this season.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of March 31, 2019)

GIRLS U16 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Southern United	5	4	1	0	14	1	13	13
Kanoa	5	3	1	1	18	11	7	10
TanHoldings	5	2	3	0	14	8	6	9
MP United	5	1	2	2	9	10	-1	5
Matansa	5	1	1	3	5	15	-10	4
Paire	5	0	0	5	7	22	-15	0

GIRLS U19 DIVISION

Kanoa	4	4	0	0	37	7	30	12
MP United	4	3	0	1	44	11	33	9
Southern United	4	2	0	2	15	26	-11	6
TanHoldings	4	1	0	3	7	18	-11	3

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nals races will be held during the competition and the Top 3 finishers in each event will receive medals.

Day 1 of the inaugural tournament will have the 4x100m mixed freestyle relay, 800m freestyle, 100m individual medley, 50m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 200m butterfly, 100m freestyle, and 4x50m mixed medley relay. For the second day, swimmers will race in the 4x100m mixed medley relay, 400m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 200m backstroke, 10m butterfly, 400m IM, and 200m freestyle. On Day 3, participants will compete in the 4x50m mixed freestyle relay, 1,500m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 200m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 200m IM, 50m freestyle, and the pineapple relay (8x25m free for all), while the open water swim (5K and 1K) is set in the final day.

Swim Leg of 30th Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan's Tony Raho, left, and Tyce Mister, center, rush out of the waters off Kilili Beach during last Saturday's 30th Tagaman Triathlon.

Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko is third out of the water

Former Saipan resident Mike Adams, center, checks his watch before going for the second lap of the swim leg, while Ayano Braxton takes her time.

Colin Thompson heads to the swim-bike transition area.

Jinju Thompson runs out of the water.

Tania Tan runs to the swim-bike transition area.

Brad Ruszala rushes out of the water.

Charlie Sendin leads Nap Dizon on their way out of the water.

Yankees win, lose Stanton and Andujar to injuries

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Sports

Celtics spoil Wade's final Garden visit

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Falcons rally to take softball title

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Ping Norita hits a grand slam in the fifth inning to power the Falcons to a come-from-behind 14-13 win over the Blue Jays in the title match in the Natibu Sports Association Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

The Falcons pulled off a come-from-behind victory over the Blue Jays, 14-13, in the title match in the Natibu Sports Association Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Down by 7 after four and a half innings, 4-11, the Falcons mounted a furious comeback, scoring 10 runs at the bottom of the fifth inning to seize the upper hand, 14-13. After overtaking the Blue Jays, the Falcons leaned on their defense in the last two innings to cling to the shaky lead and win the championship.

Left fielder Ping Norita anchored the Falcons' rally in the pivotal fifth inning, as he unloaded a grand slam that brought Angel Iguel, Aven Evangelista, and Awang Tudela home. Earlier, Dung Maratita also homered and brought with him Kobe Lifoifoi, while Baby Riungel, Nosh Nakamura, and Tonchu Norita also reached to put the Falcons on top.

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10 Tsunami Saipan swimmers off to Palau

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a photo during a break in their training session at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The 10 swimmers are in Palau to compete in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan will have 10 members competing in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships in Palau.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said Nelson Batallones, Joseph Zhang, Juhn Tenorio, Aika Watanabe, Isaiah Aleksenko, Hans Xu, Kean Pajarillaga, Ashley Dangol, and Shoko Litulumar will be participating in the April 4 to 7 event that will be held at the National Swimming Pool in Koror. The team left for Palau yesterday for the four-day meet that will also feature swimmers from Palau, Guam, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The 10 Tsunami Saipan swimmers have been training at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan since early this year to prepare for the tournament in Palau and Kimura has set high expectations for the club's members.

"They have to swim for gold. The future division swimmers must aim to get gold medals in all their events," said Kimura, who was talking of Aleksenko, Xu, Pajarillaga, Dangol, and Litulumar.

The five other members (stars division) are pressed to get at least one gold medal or rule their favorite event.

In the Micronesian Swimming Championships, the stars division is for swimmers in the 13 and over age group, while the futures pool is for 12 and under. Preliminary and fi-

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Southern United grabs lead; TanHoldings wins

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings Football Club and Paire FC players battle for possession during their girls U16 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club dislodged Kanoa Football Club from the No. 1 spot in the girls U16 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League after cruising to a 4-0 victory in their duel last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

Southern United capitalized on the absence of Kanoa's key players (competing in Hong Kong for the CNMI Girls U17 National Team) to take the shutout win and the grab the lead in the division. Kanoa absorbed its first loss of the season and

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